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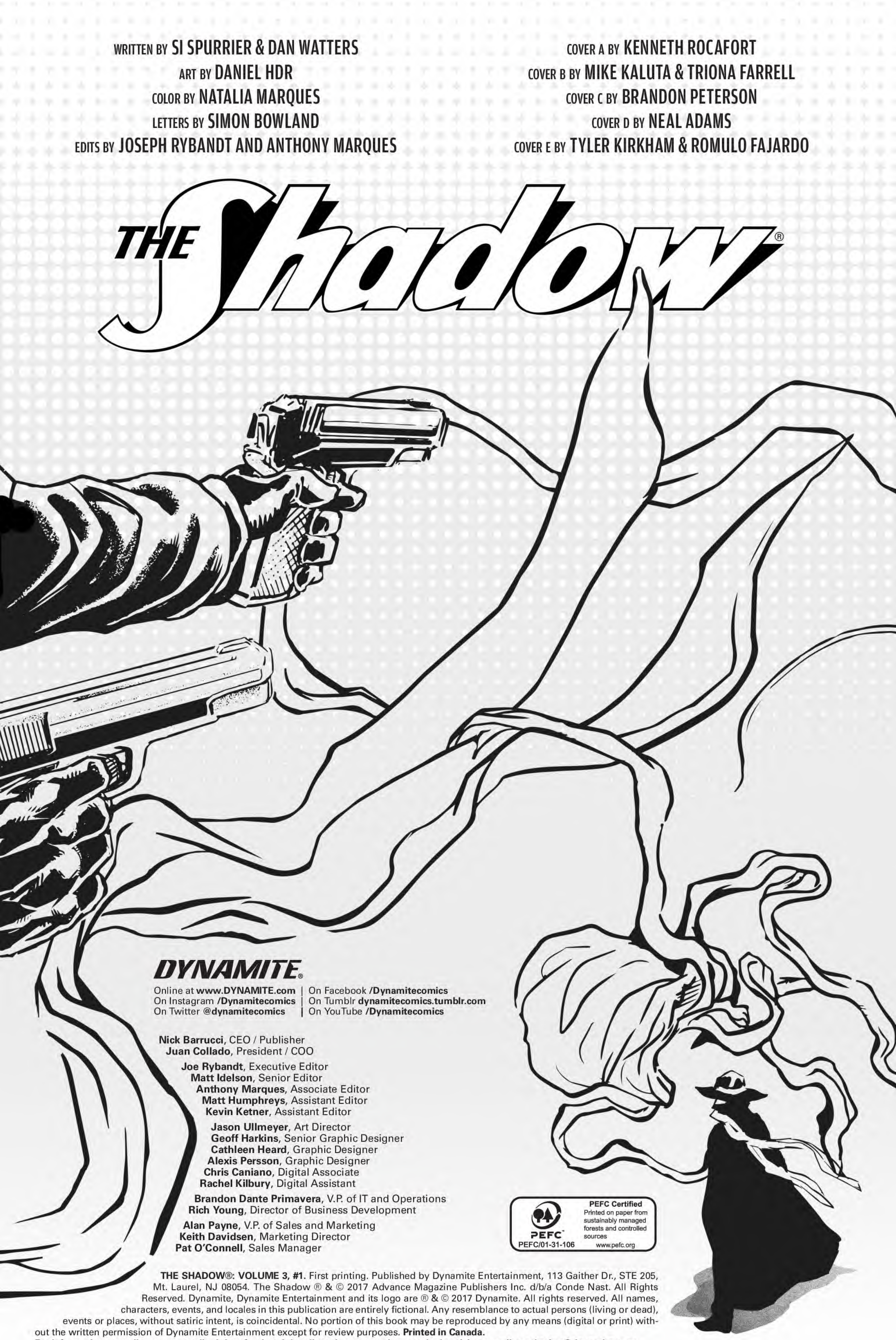

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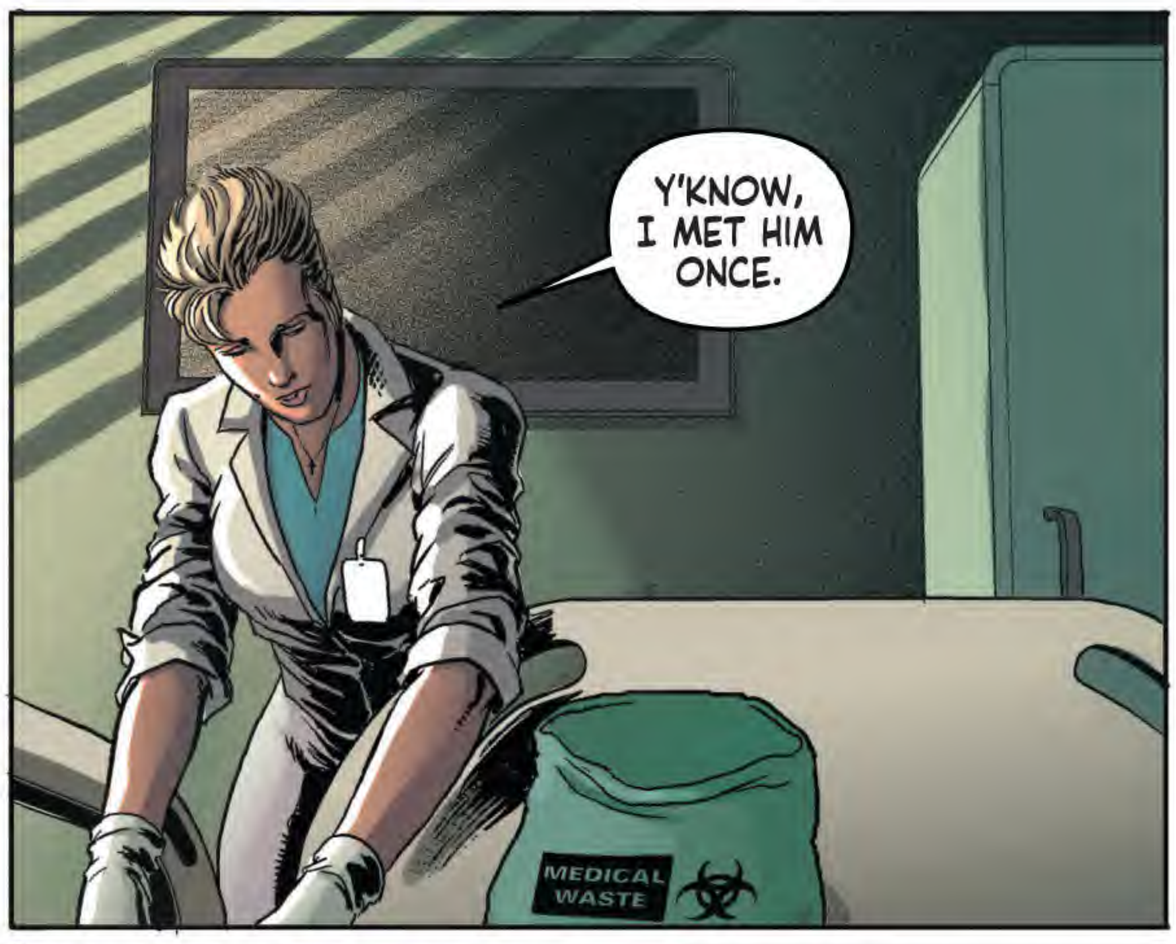
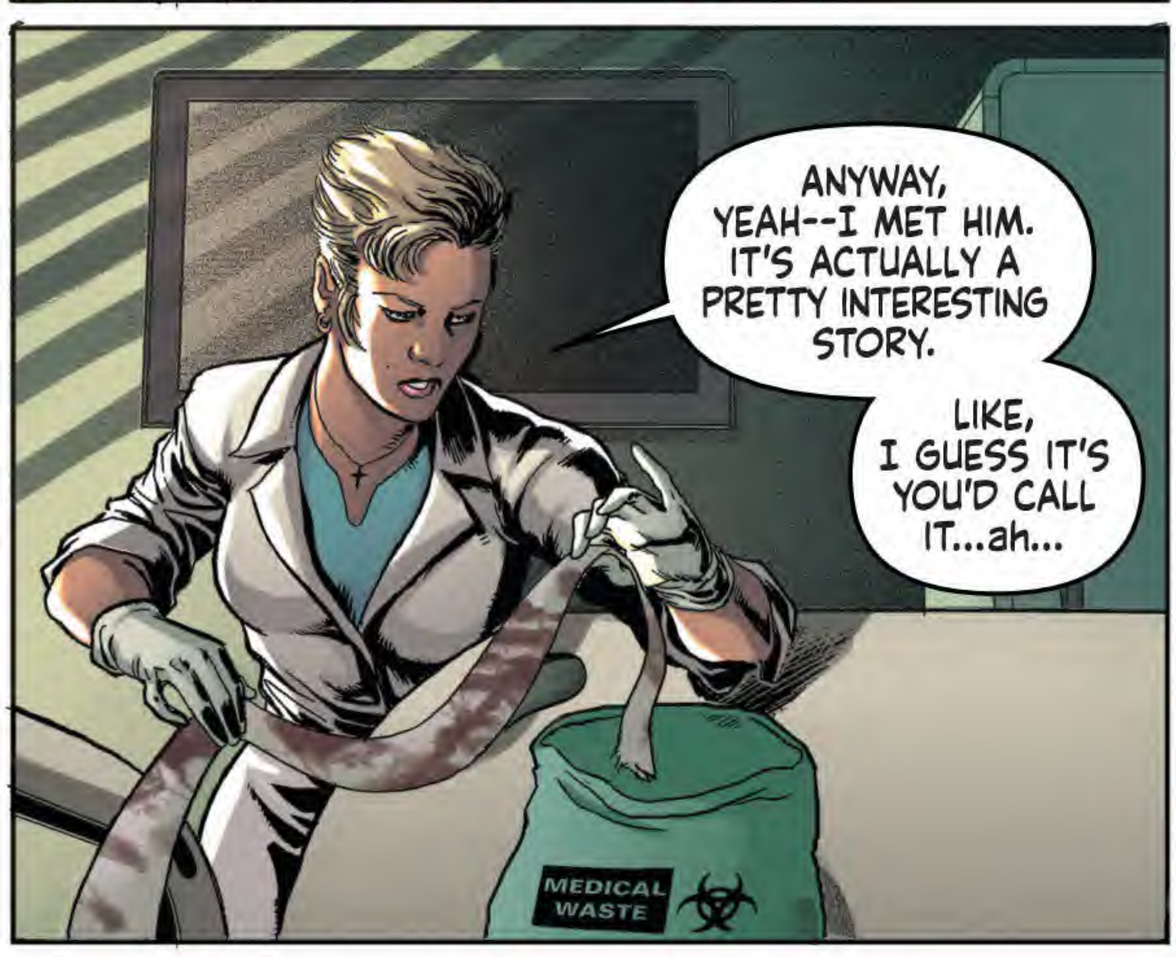
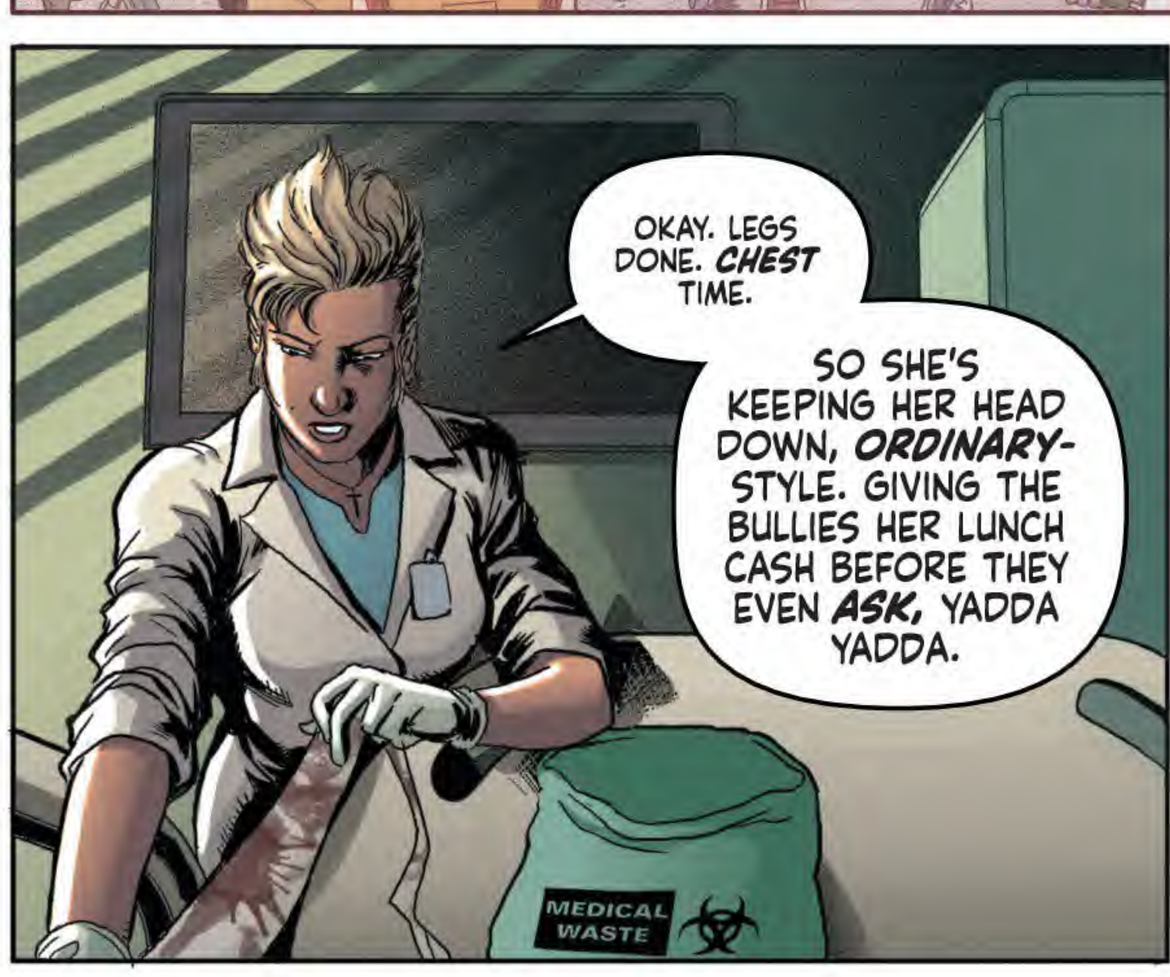

Y'KNOW, I MET HIM ONCE.
MEDICAL WASTE

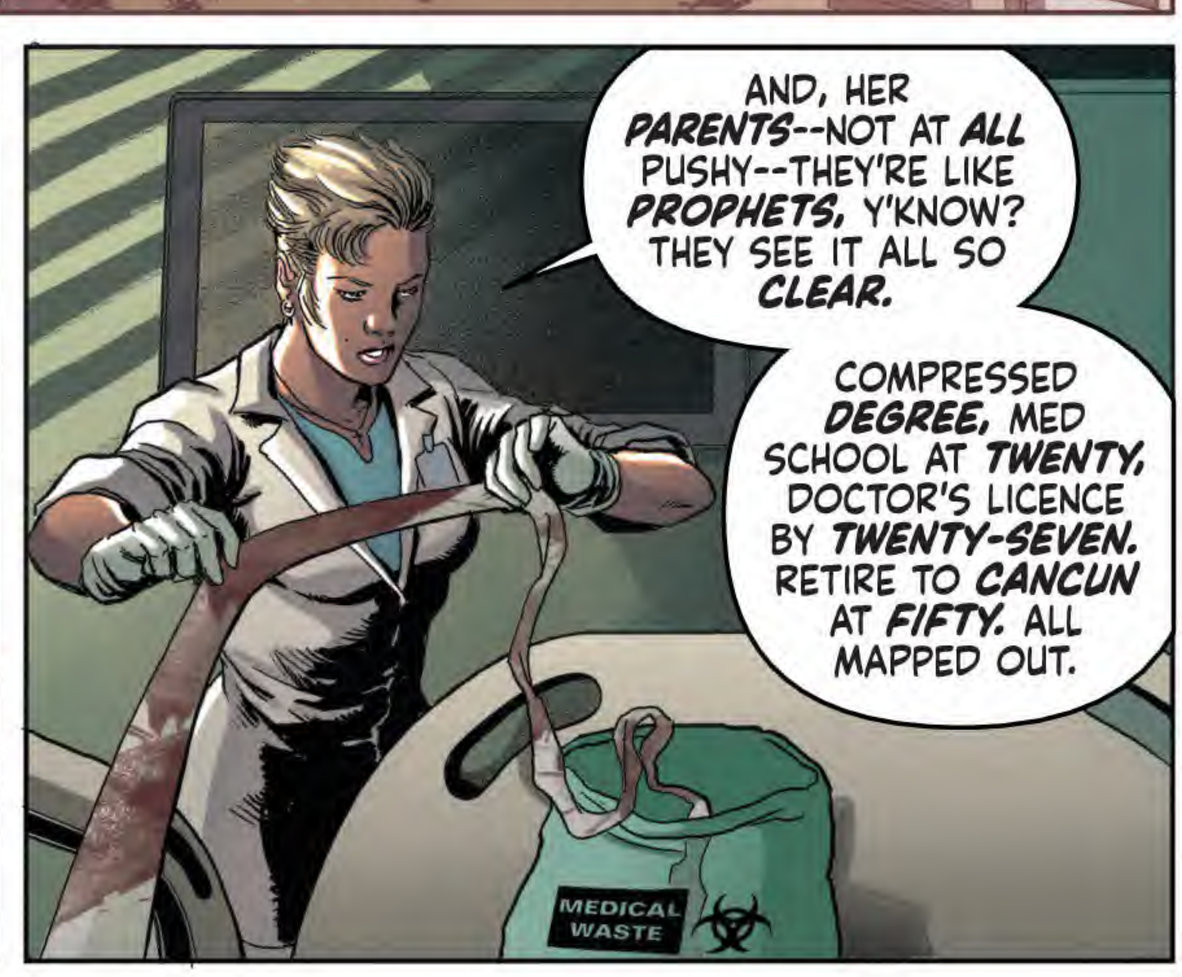
HEY, TRY NOT TO TALK, OKAY? LIFT YOUR KNEE, IF YOU CAN.
NO? WHOOPS. OKAY, DON'T WORRY--I'VE GOT LOTION FOR THAT..
MEDICAL WASTE


ANYWAY, YEAH--I MET HIM. IT'S ACTUALLY A PRETTY INTERESTING STORY.
LIKE, I GUESS IT'S YOU'D CALL IT...ah...
MEDICAL WASTE

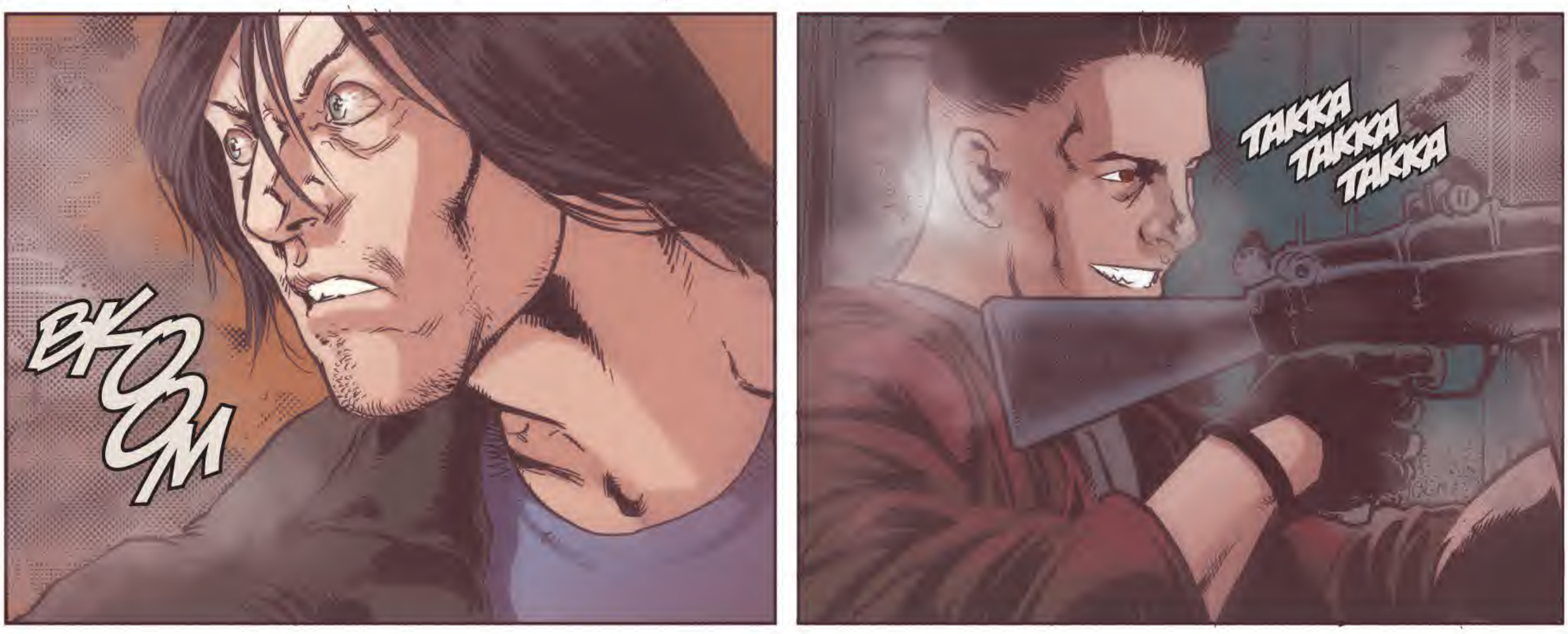
"...A FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE.

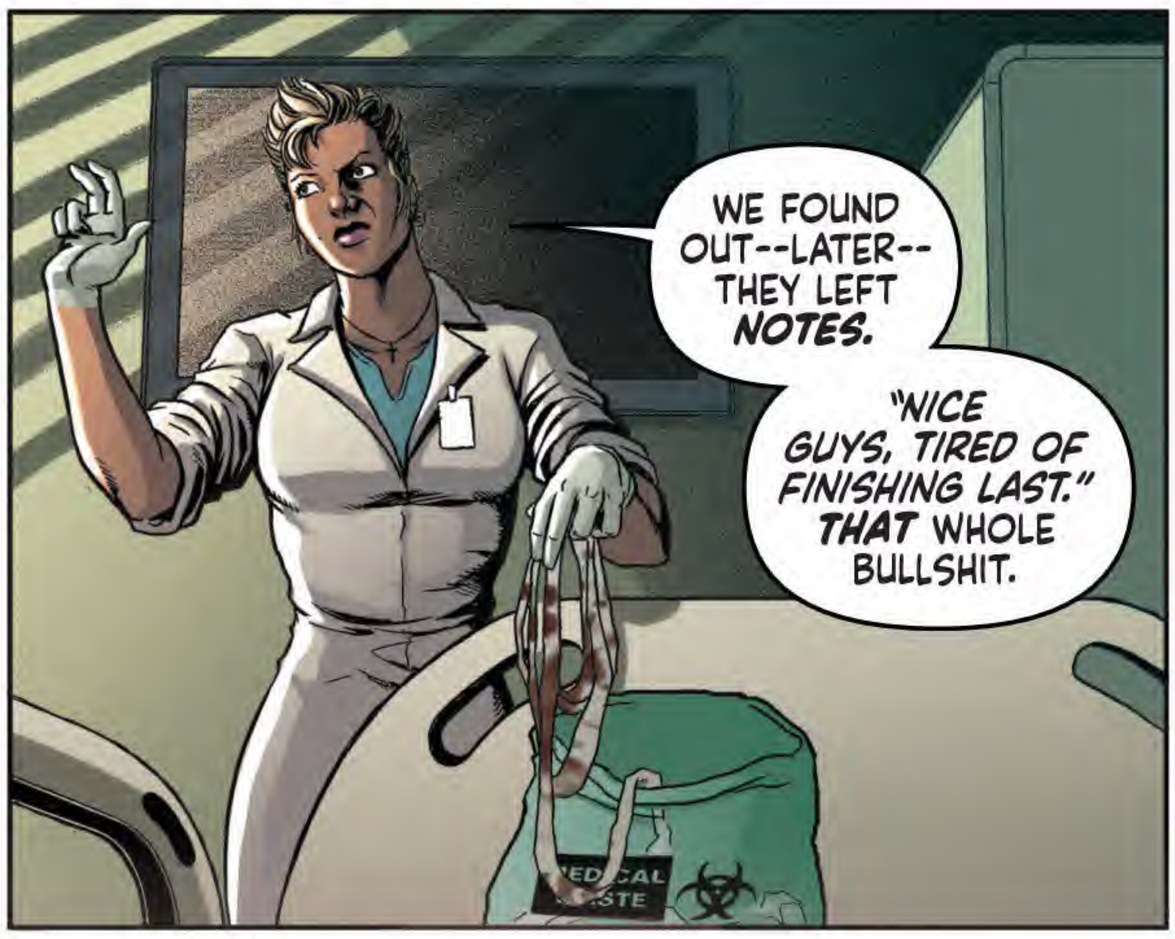
"YOU CAN PICTURE THE SCENE, RIGHT? THIS IS LIKE, OHHH, TEN YEARS AGO. TOTALLY ORDINARY SCHOOL.
M. W. KALUTA
NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOL
"ORDINARY SCRAWNY LATINA WHO ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DOES NOT HAVE A CRUSH ON HER BIOLOGY PROFESSOR.
"ORDINARY."


OKAY. LEGS DONE. CHEST TIME.
SO SHE'S KEEPING HER HEAD DOWN, ORDINARY-STYLE. GIVING THE BULLIES HER LUNCH CASH BEFORE THEY EVEN ASK, YADDA YADDA.
MEDICAL WASTE


AND, HER PARENTS--NOT AT ALL PUSHY--THEY'RE LIKE PROPHETS, Y'KNOW? THEY SEE IT ALL SO CLEAR.
COMPRESSED DEGREE, MED SCHOOL AT TWENTY, DOCTOR'S LICENCE BY TWENTY-SEVEN. RETIRE TO CANCUN AT FIFTY. ALL MAPPED OUT.
MEDICAL WASTE

"NO SURPRISES."

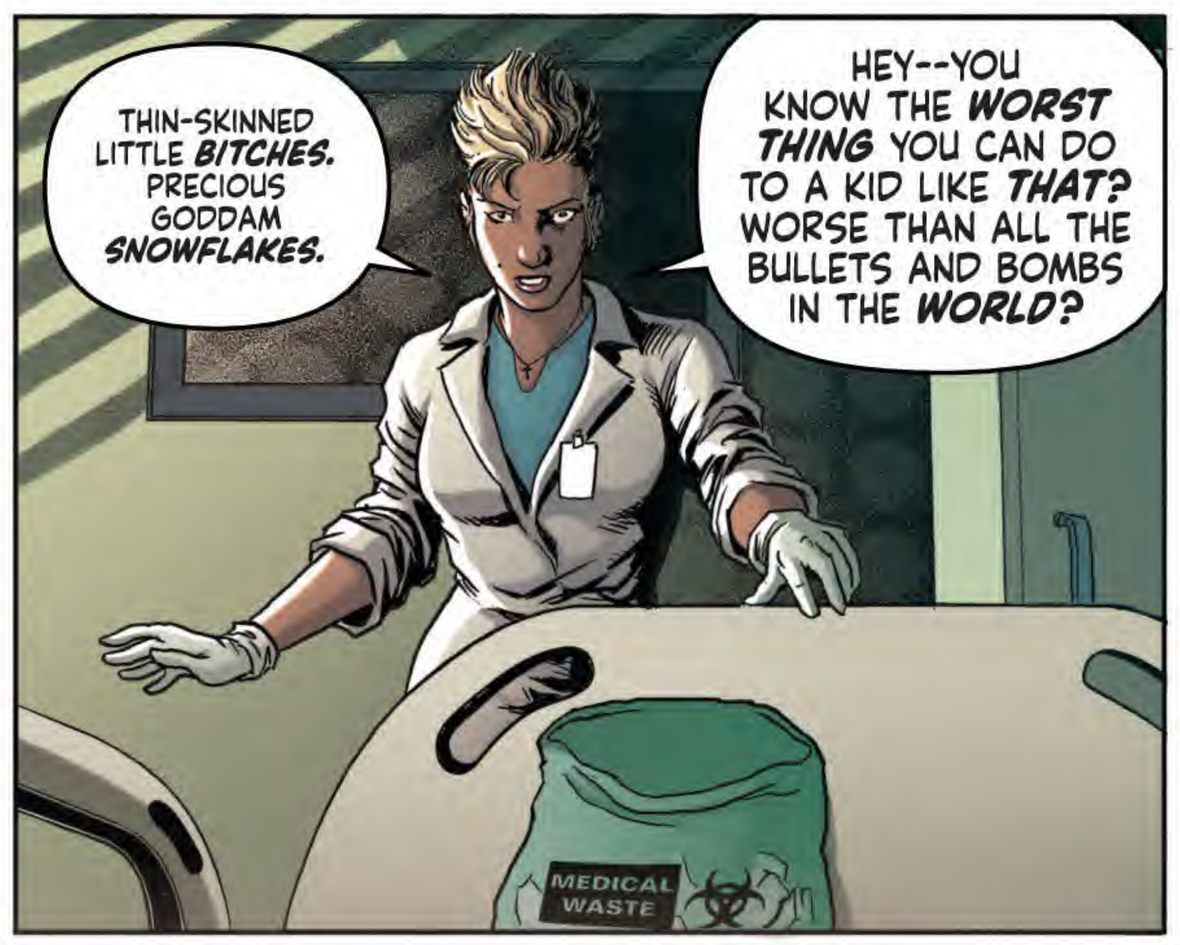



WE FOUND OUT--LATER--THEY LEFT NOTES.
"NICE GUYS, TIRED OF FINISHING LAST." THAT WHOLE BULLSHIT.

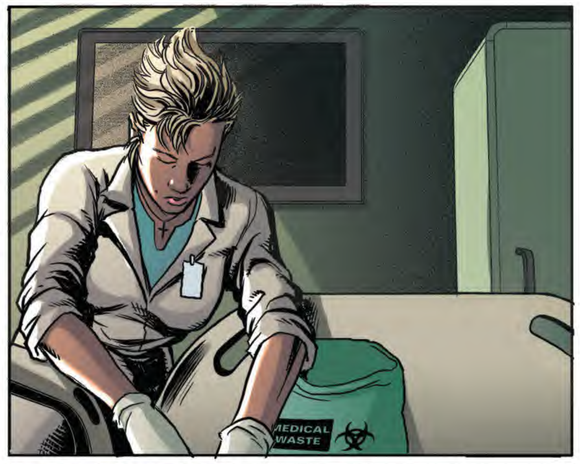
ALL IT IS, REALLY? IT'S TANTRUM THROWING.
THESE STUPID LITTLE BASTARDS LOSING THEIR MINDS WHEN THE WORLD REFUSES TO MEET THEIR EXPECTATIONS.
MEDICAL WASTE

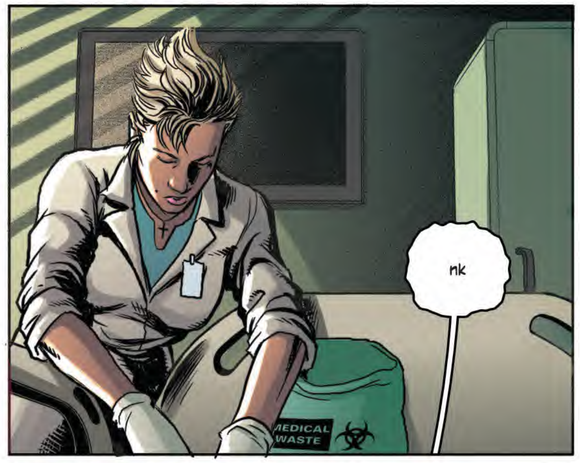
"IN THEIR HEADS THEY WERE THESE...THESE DEPOSED KINGS. OPPRESSED UNDERDOGS, Y'KNOW? HEROIC LAST STAND."
N-NO
"IN THEIR HEADS IT DIDN'T MATTER WHO GOT HURT AND WHO DIED--"

--LONG AS THEY GOT THEIR NAMES ON THE NEWS.
MEDICAL WASTE


THIN-SKINNED LITTLE BITCHES. PRECIOUS GODDAM SNOWFLAKES.
HEY--YOU KNOW THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO TO A KID LIKE THAT? WORSE THAN ALL THE BULLETS AND BOMBS IN THE WORLD?
MEDICAL WASTE

HAHAHAHAHAHA
"YOU LAUGH AT THEM."


MEDICAL WASTE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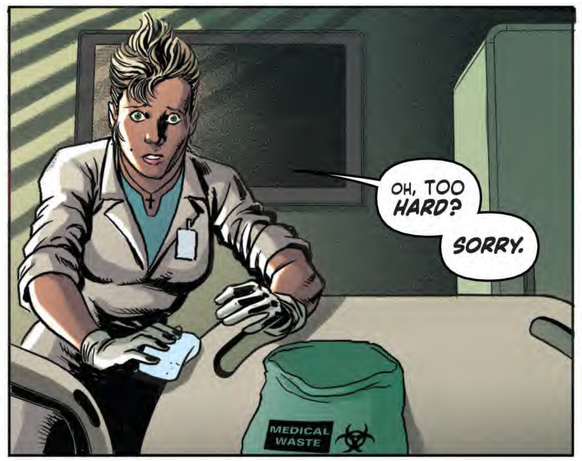
MEDICAL WASTE


OH, TOO HARD?
SORRY.
MEDICAL WASTE

BUT, I MEAN, IN A WAY THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.
THE PAIN-- Y'KNOW?
MEDICAL WASTE

MEANS SOMETHING'S STILL *WORKING.*

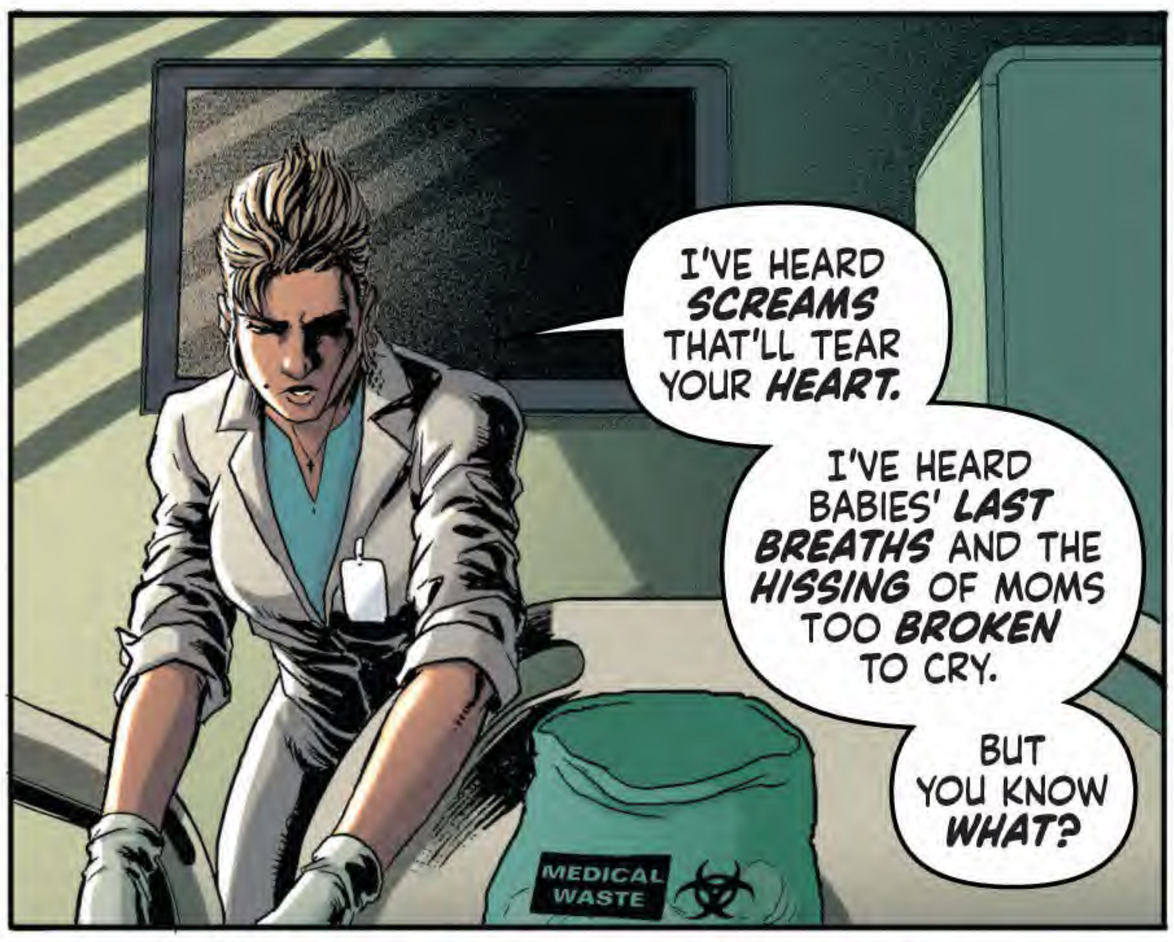
"MEANS YOU CAN STILL *FEEL* THINGS."

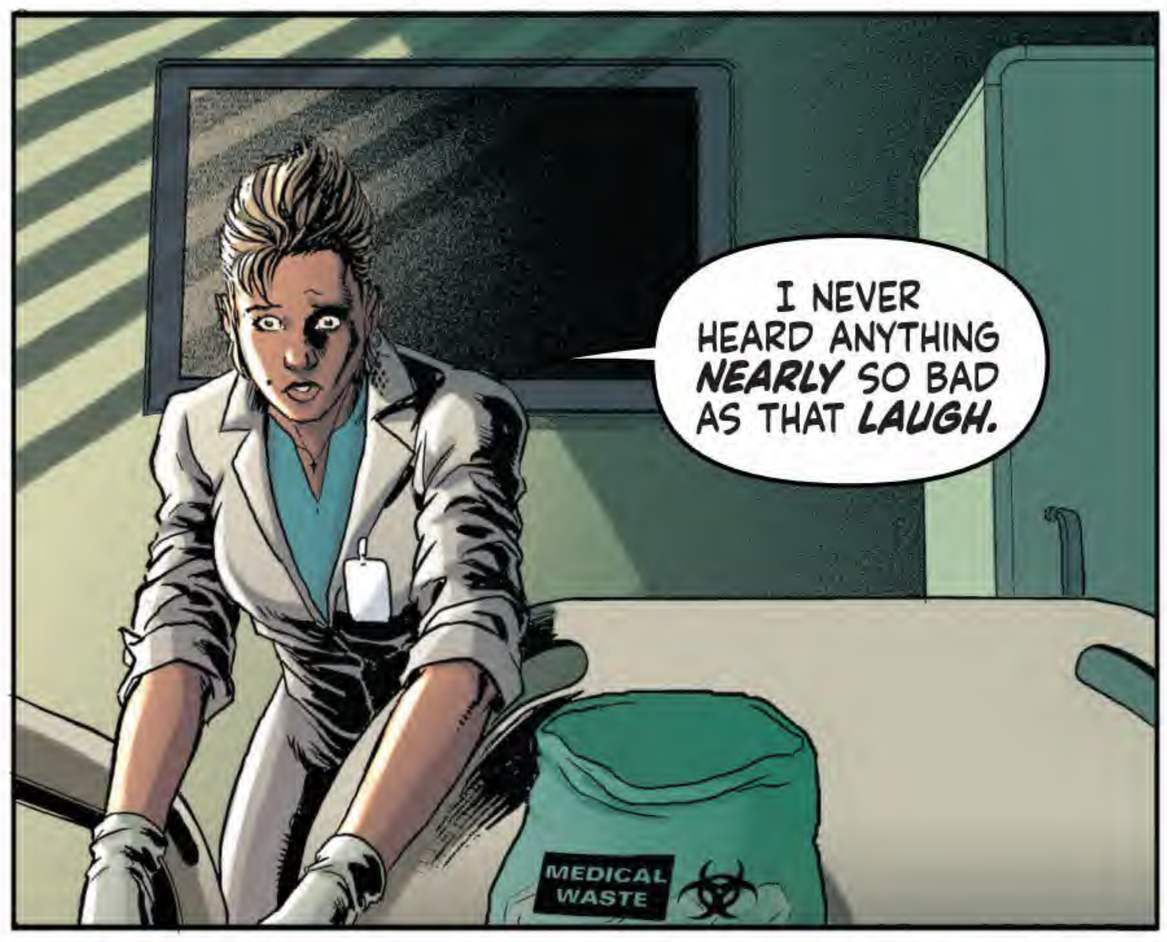
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA

nnp

OH, STOP *FUSSING.* IT'S NOT THE FIRST *BURNT JUNK* I'VE SEEN, OKAY? NOR THE *WORST.*

WORKING HERE, YOU SEE *ALL* SORTS. *HEAR* 'EM, TOO.


I'VE HEARD SCREAMS THAT'LL TEAR YOUR HEART.
I'VE HEARD BABIES' LAST BREATHS AND THE HISSING OF MOMS TOO BROKEN TO CRY.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?
MEDICAL WASTE

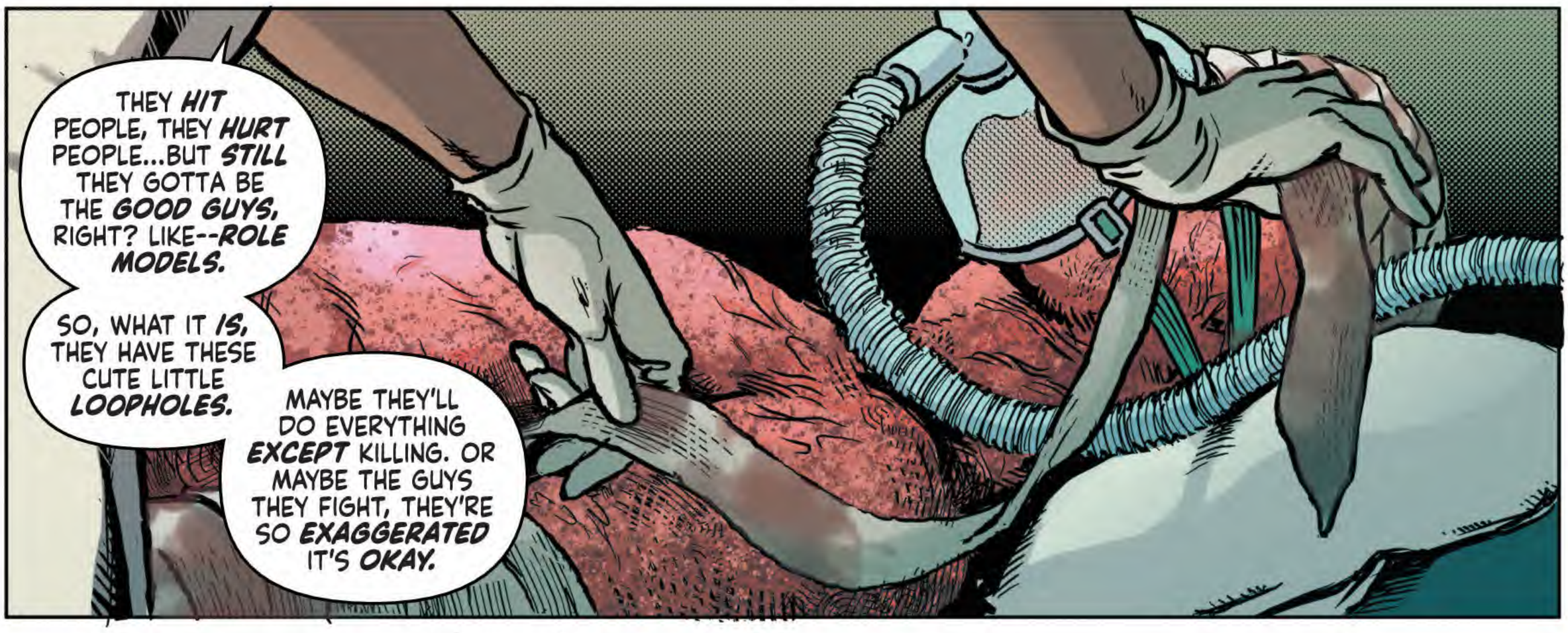

I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING NEARLY SO BAD AS THAT LAUGH.
MEDICAL WASTE

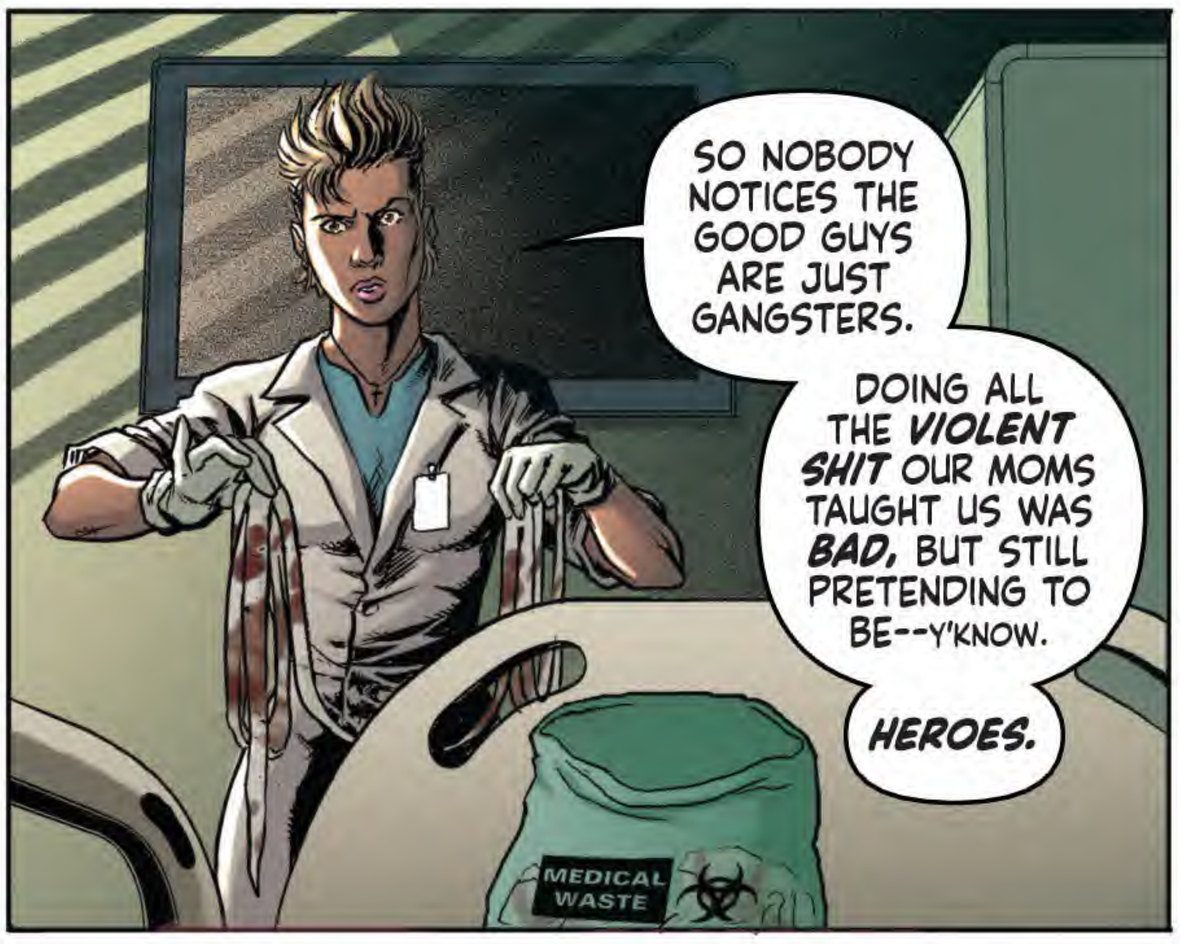
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA
"NOW, HIM? HE'S BEEN OUT THERE SINCE THE THIRTIES--DID YOU KNOW THAT?

"GANGBUSTING, SPYCATCHING...
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
"THE LAUGH... THE TERROR...TWIN .45 SEMIS AND A BLOOD-RED SILK SCARF...

"BEST PART OF A CENTURY AND NOBODY KNOWS SHIT ABOUT WHO HE IS.

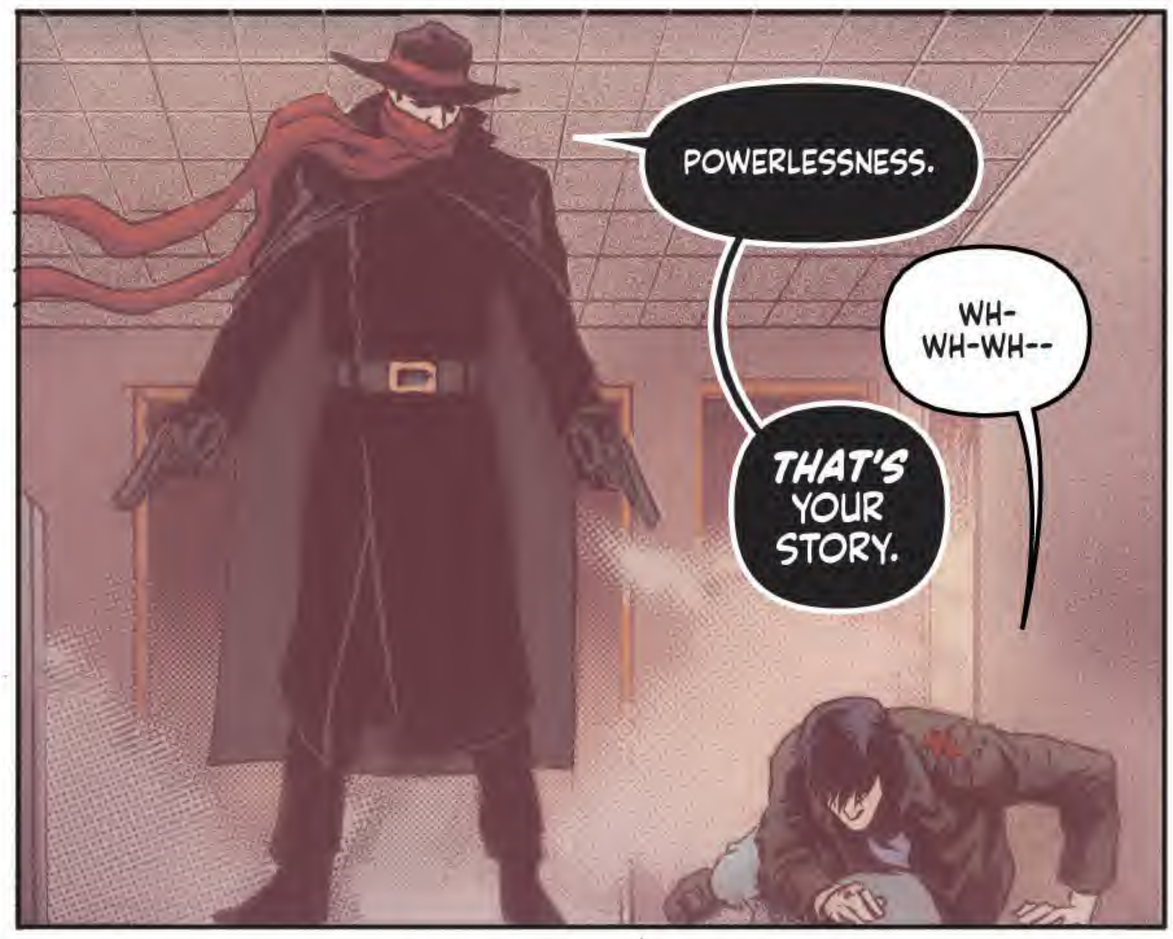
"ONLY WHAT HE *DOES.*"




SO NOBODY NOTICES THE GOOD GUYS ARE JUST GANGSTERS.
DOING ALL THE *VIOLENT SHIT* OUR MOMS TAUGHT US WAS *BAD,* BUT STILL PRETENDING TO BE--Y'KNOW.
HEROES.
MEDICAL WASTE

BUT *HIM?*
MEDICAL WASTE

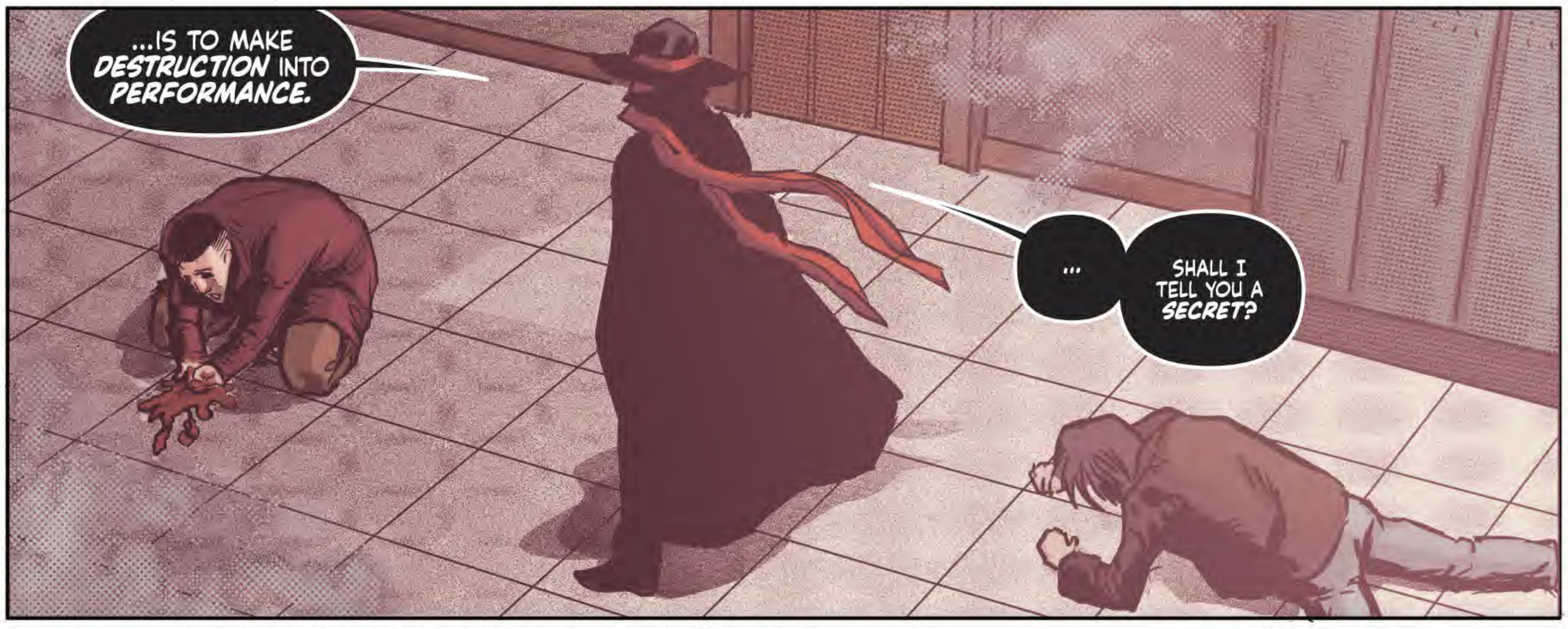
"I THINK HE *KNOWS* WHAT HE IS."



YOU WERE **BORN** TO A **PRIVILEGE** YOU NEITHER **DESERVED** NOR **NOTICED.** AND AS THE WORLD **IMPROVES** FOR THOSE **BENEATH** YOU--

--YOUR **EMPIRE ERODES.**

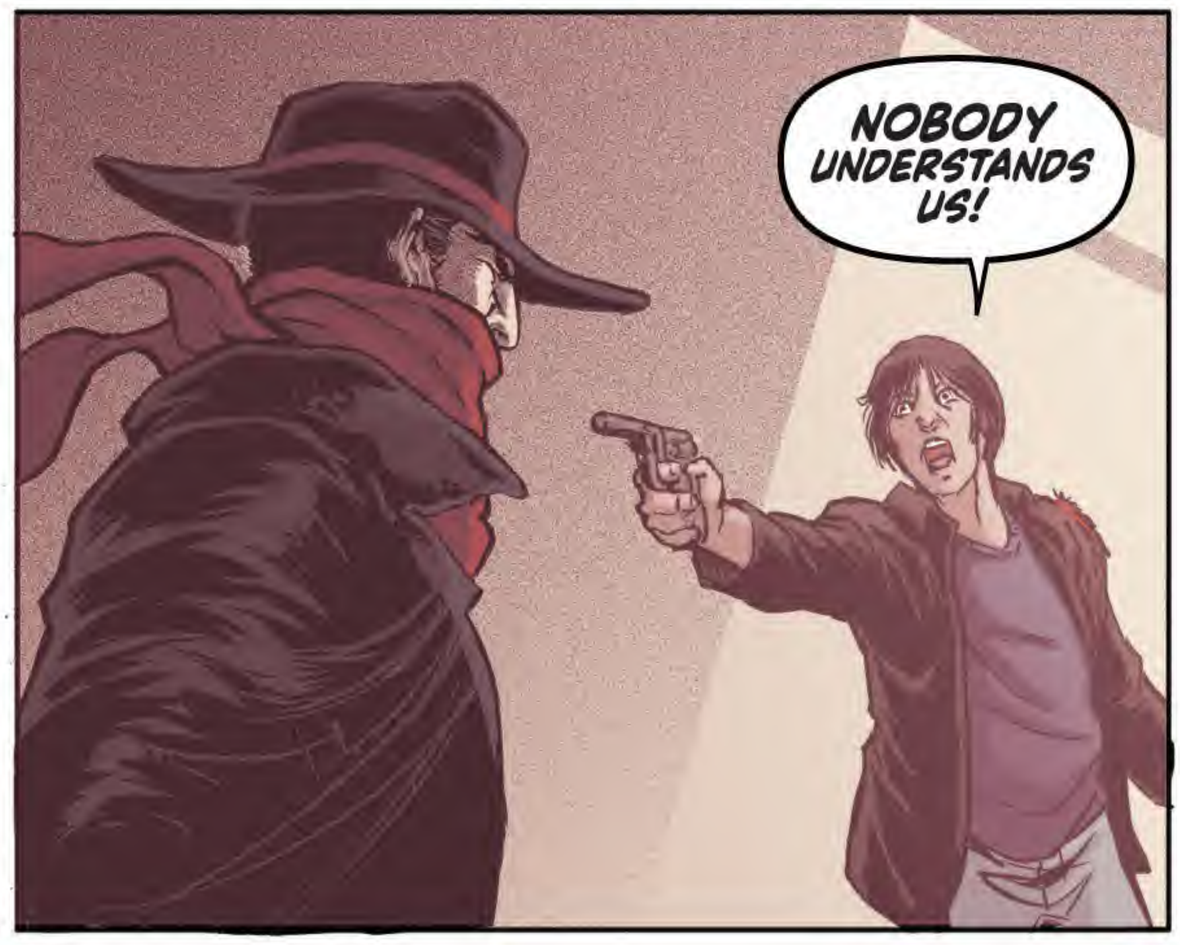
YOU HAVE NO **IDEA** YOU BEGAN LIFE ON A **PEDESTAL,** AND SO YOU INVENT YOUR SAD LITTLE STORY OF **ALIENATION.**


...IS TO MAKE DESTRUCTION INTO PERFORMANCE.
...
SHALL I TELL YOU A SECRET?

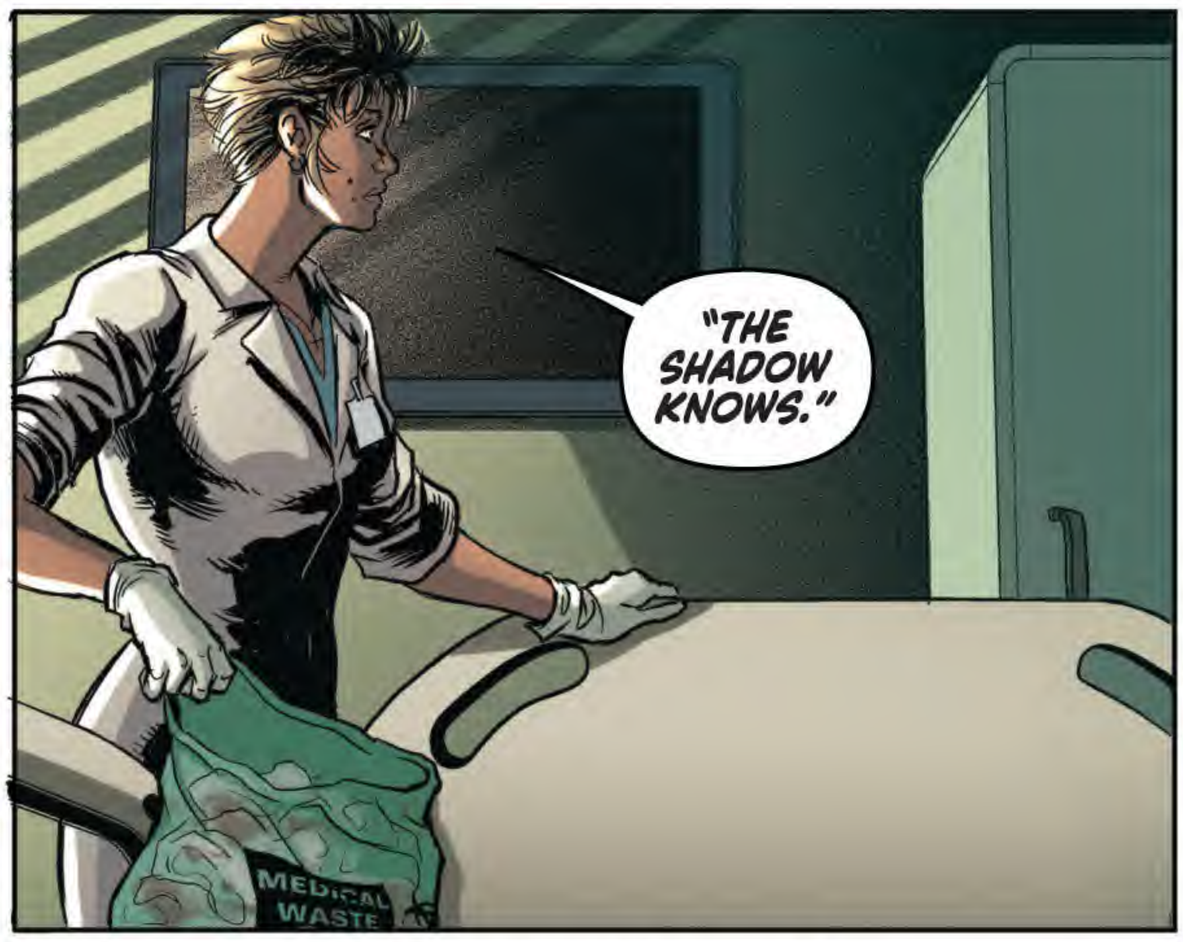
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
...

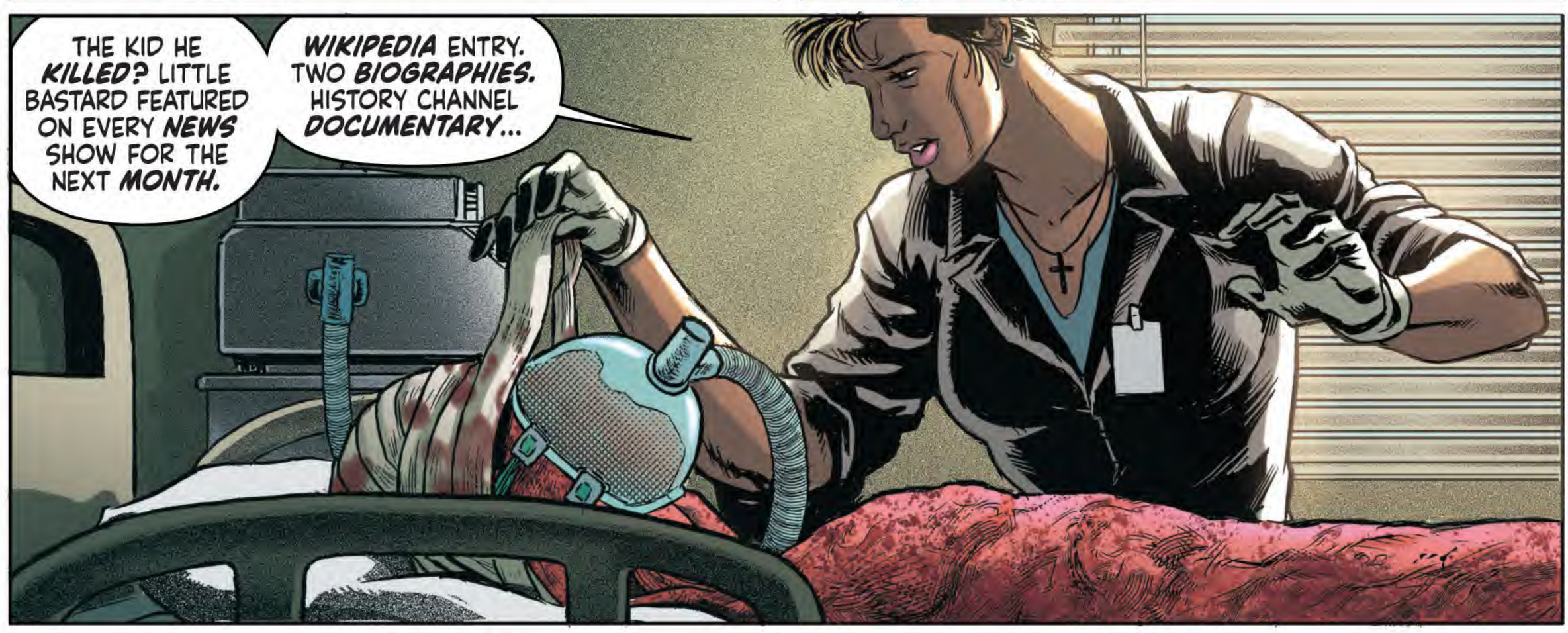
LET ME SHOW YOU...

S-SCREW YOU!


NOBODY UNDERSTANDS US!

ON THE CONTRARY.
WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF MAN?
HA.


"THE SHADOW KNOWS."
MEDICAL WASTE

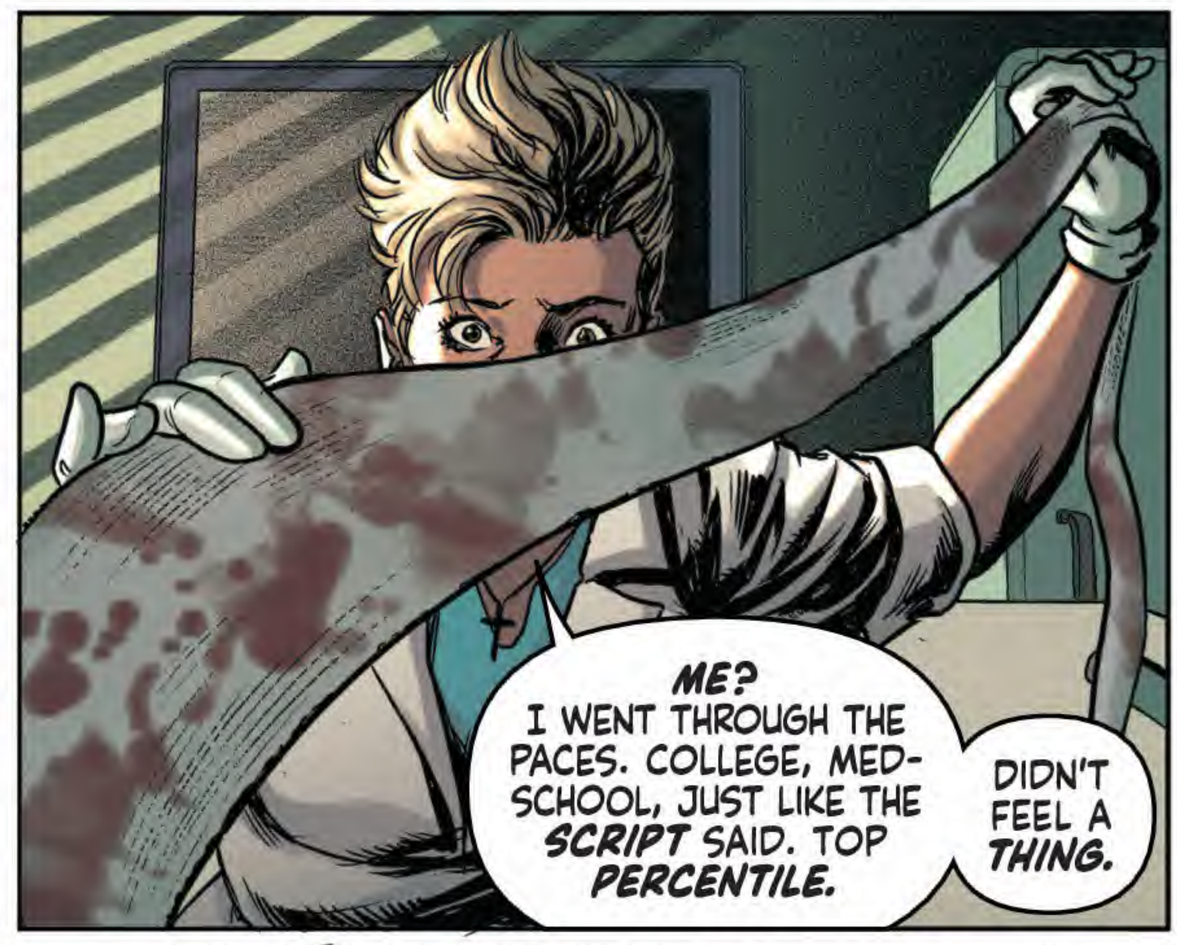

THE KID HE *KILLED?* LITTLE BASTARD FEATURED ON EVERY *NEWS* SHOW FOR THE NEXT *MONTH.*
WIKIPEDIA ENTRY. TWO *BIOGRAPHIES.* HISTORY CHANNEL *DOCUMENTARY...*

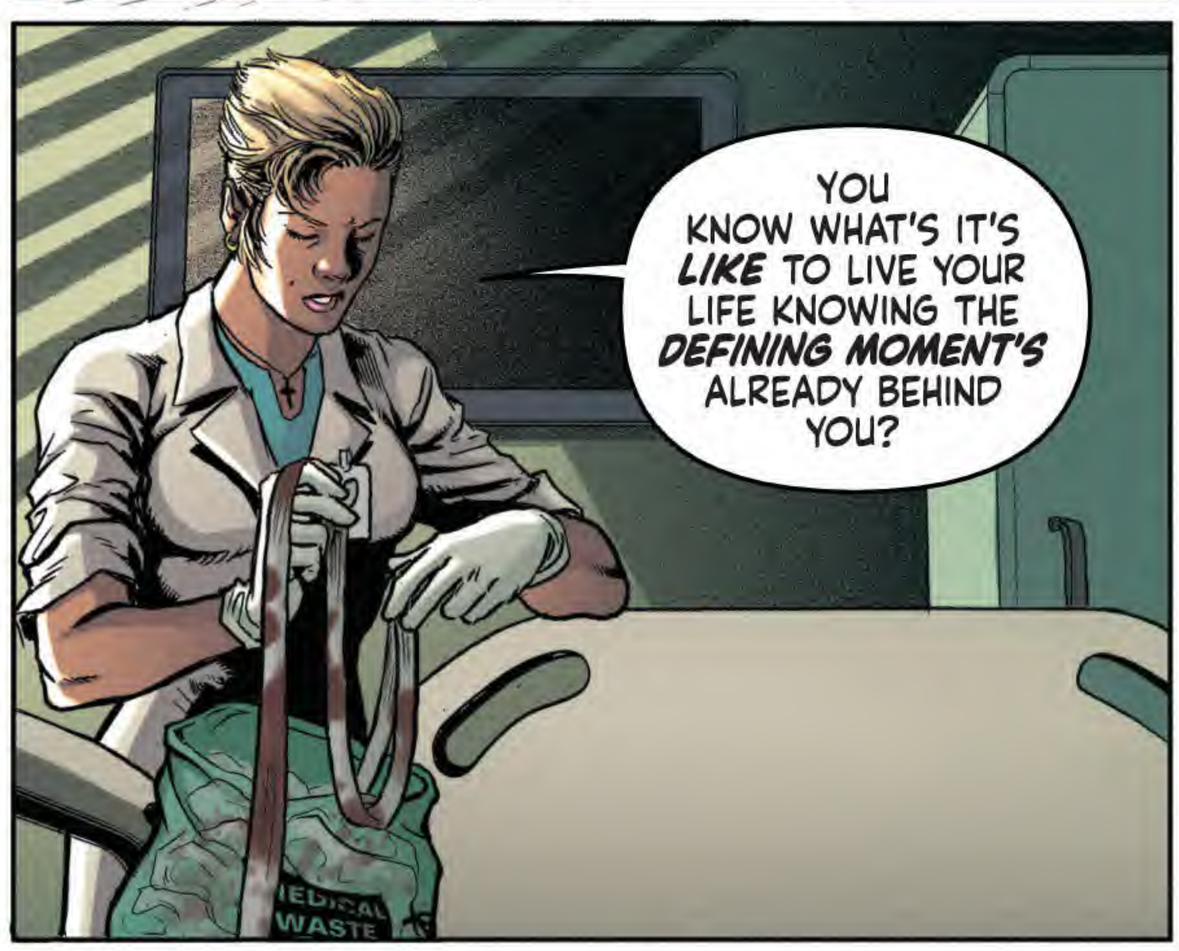
THE *OTHER* ONE? ONE THEY *ARRESTED?*

NOBODY EVEN REMEMBERS HIS *NAME.*

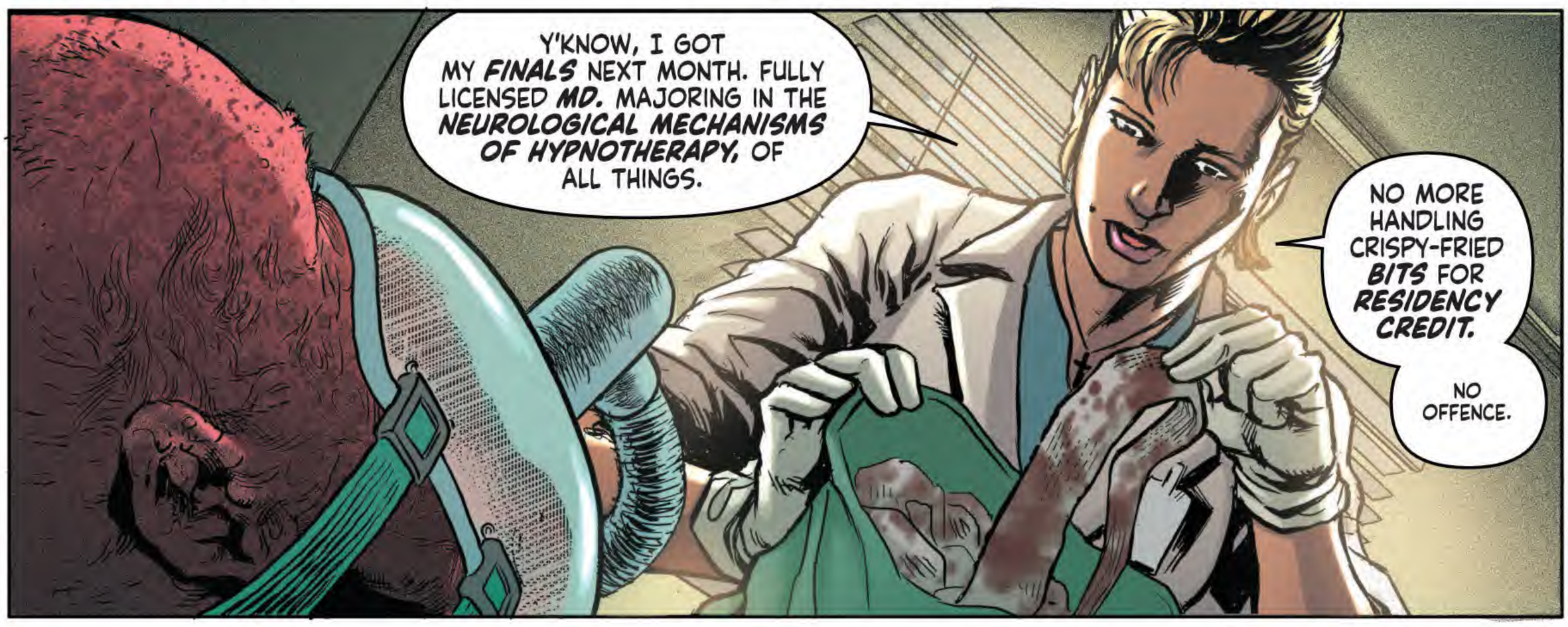
B-BODIES AND SOULS! IT'S MADE OF *ALL THE PEOPLE!* IT MOVES!
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT IT *MOVES? LEVIATHAN TURNS!*
LEVIATHAN *TURNS* IN THE *DEEP!*

I CHECKED HIS *RECORDS,* ACTUALLY. WOUND UP IN A *NUTHOUSE* DOWN THE STREET.
I HOPE HE *ROTS.*


ME? I WENT THROUGH THE PACES. COLLEGE, MED-SCHOOL, JUST LIKE THE *SCRIPT* SAID. TOP *PERCENTILE.*
DIDN'T FEEL A *THING.*

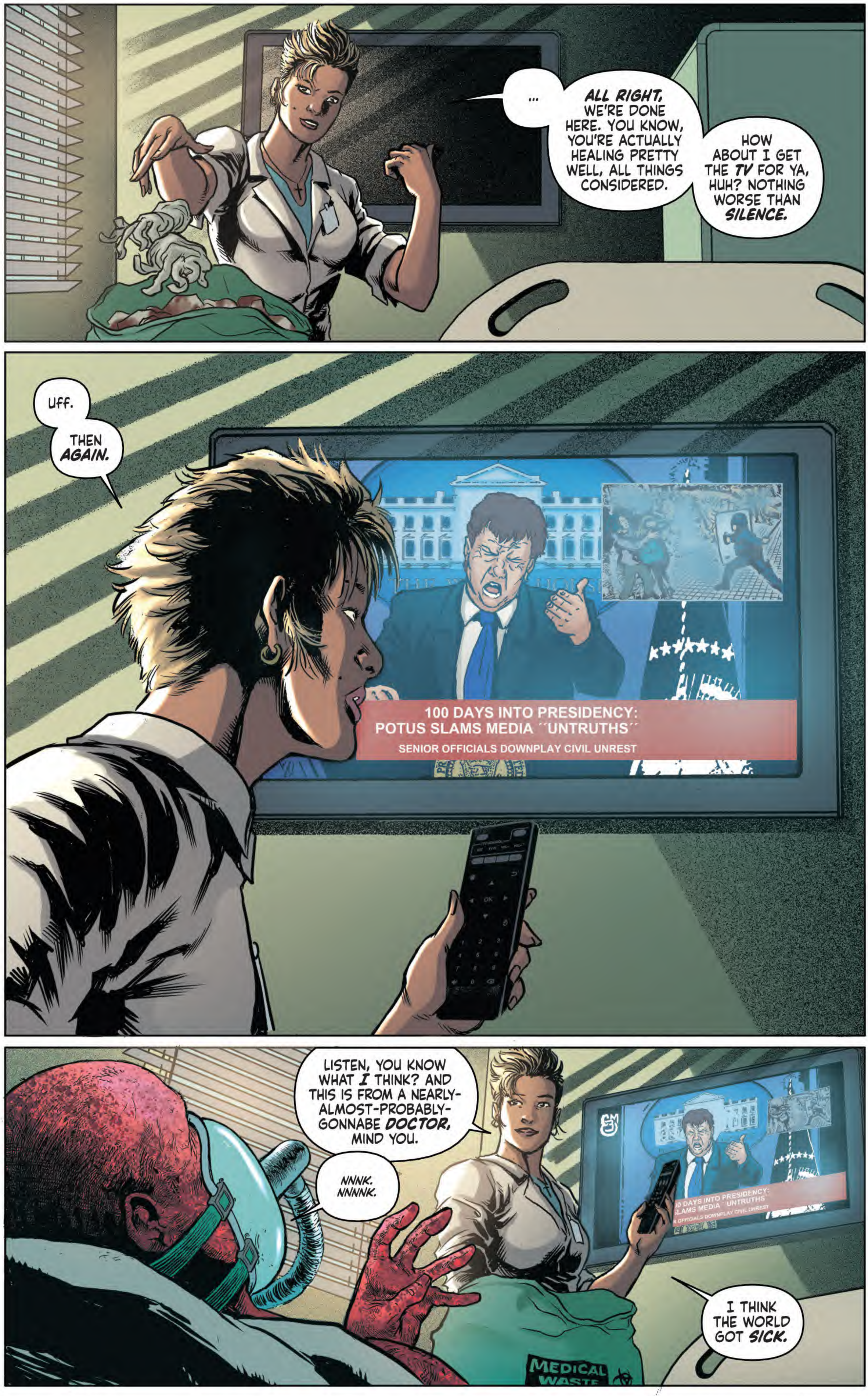

YOU KNOW WHAT'S IT'S *LIKE* TO LIVE YOUR LIFE KNOWING THE *DEFINING MOMENT'S* ALREADY BEHIND YOU?

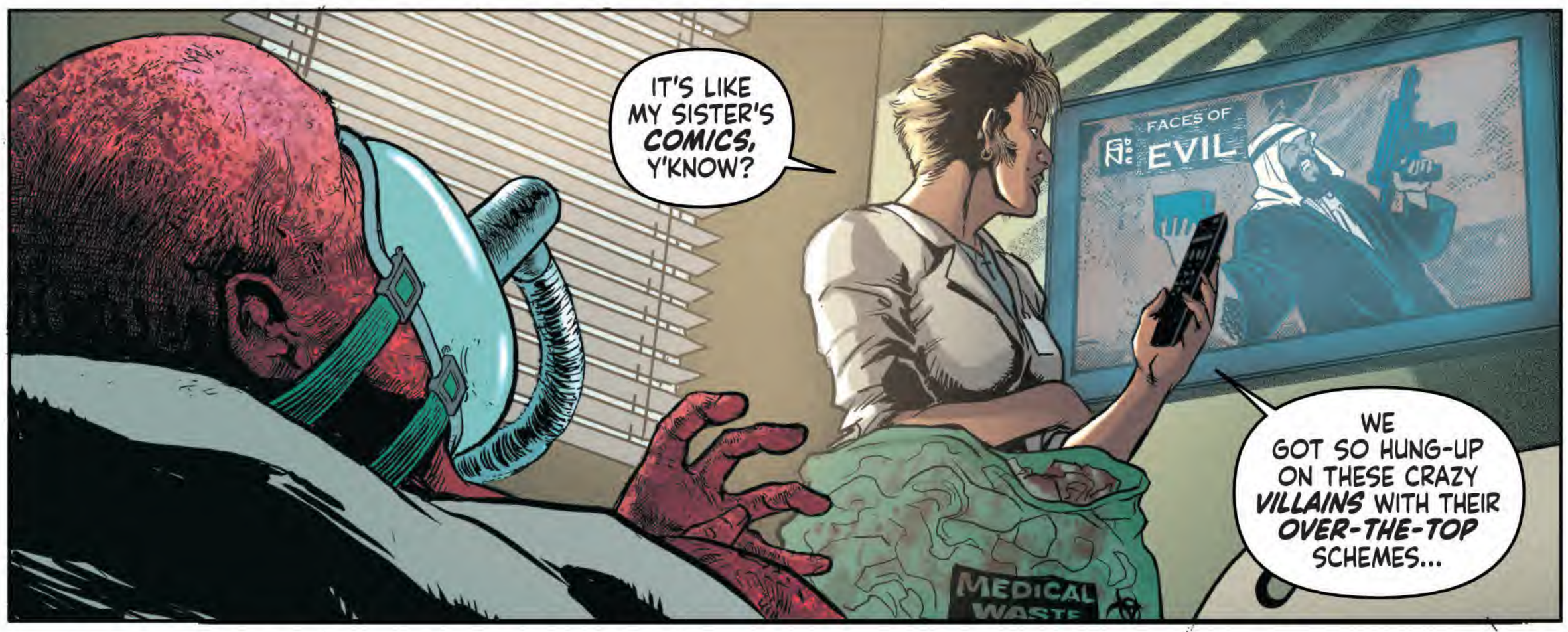
Huh. MAYBE YOU *DO.*

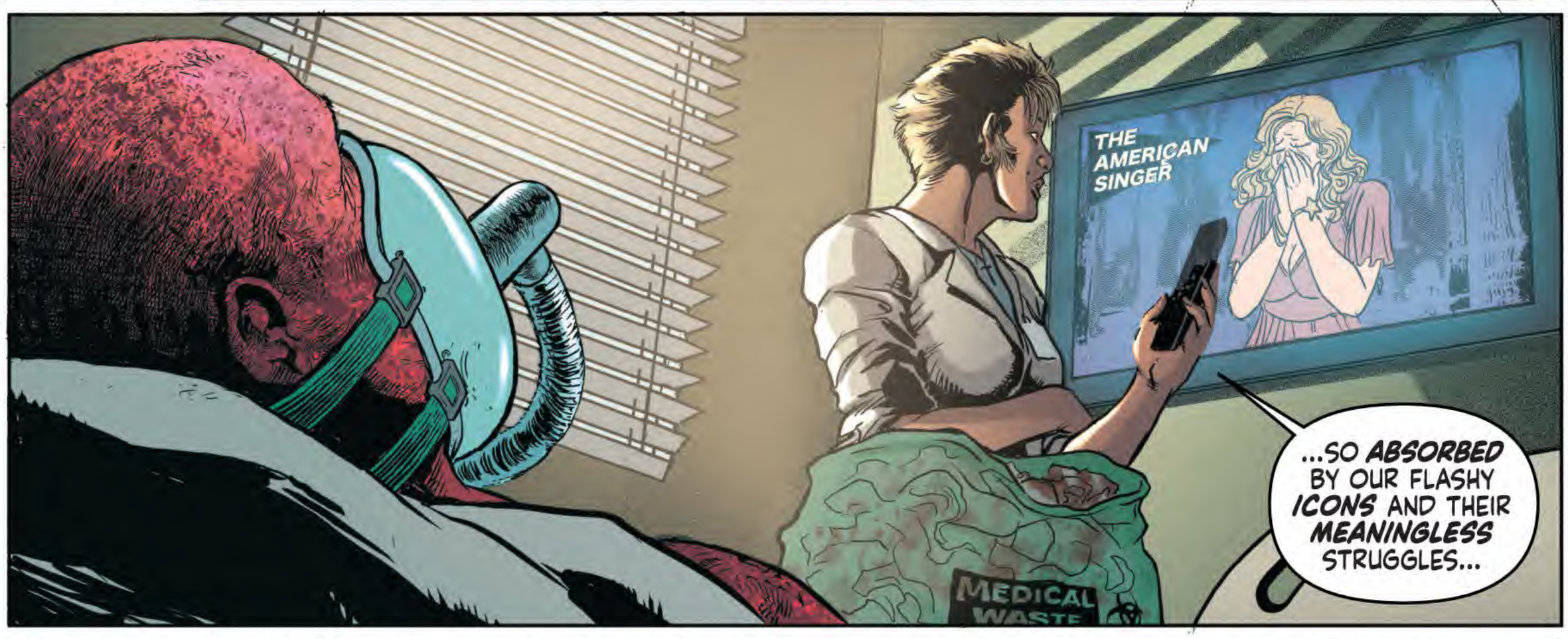

Y'KNOW, I GOT MY *FINALS* NEXT MONTH. FULLY LICENSED *MD.* MAJORING IN THE *NEUROLOGICAL MECHANISMS OF HYPNOTHERAPY,* OF ALL THINGS.
NO MORE HANDLING CRISPY-FRIED *BITS* FOR *RESIDENCY CREDIT.*
NO OFFENCE.

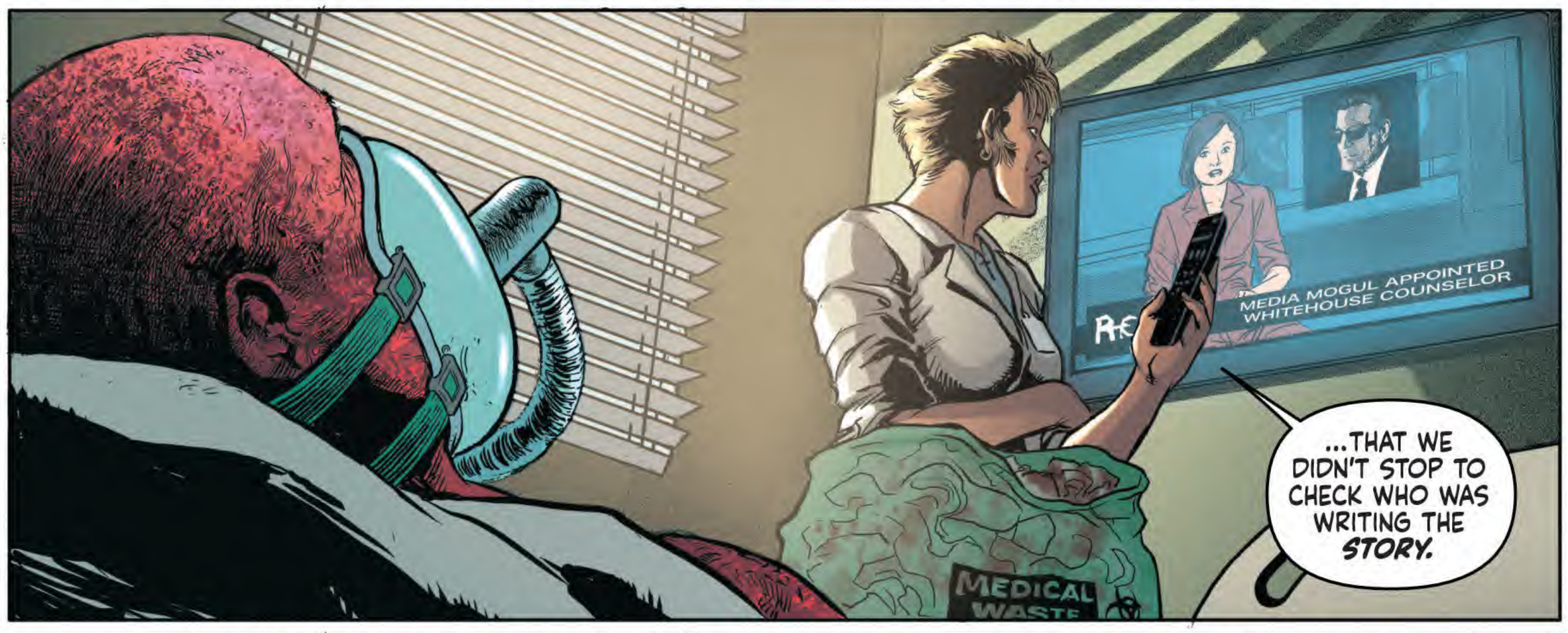
MY *MAMMA* KEEPS CALLING TO ASK IF I'M NERVOUS, EXCITED-- *ANYTHING.*

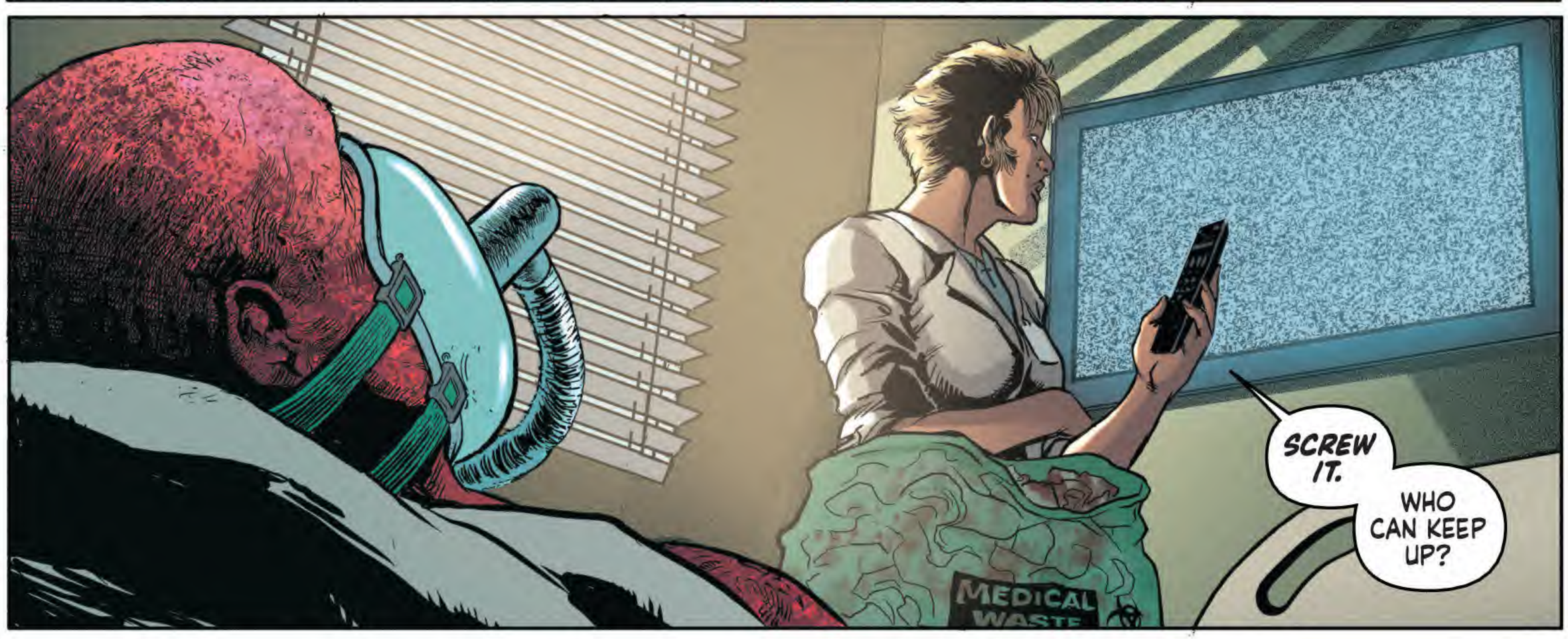
MOSTLY I DON'T *ANSWER* THE PHONE.

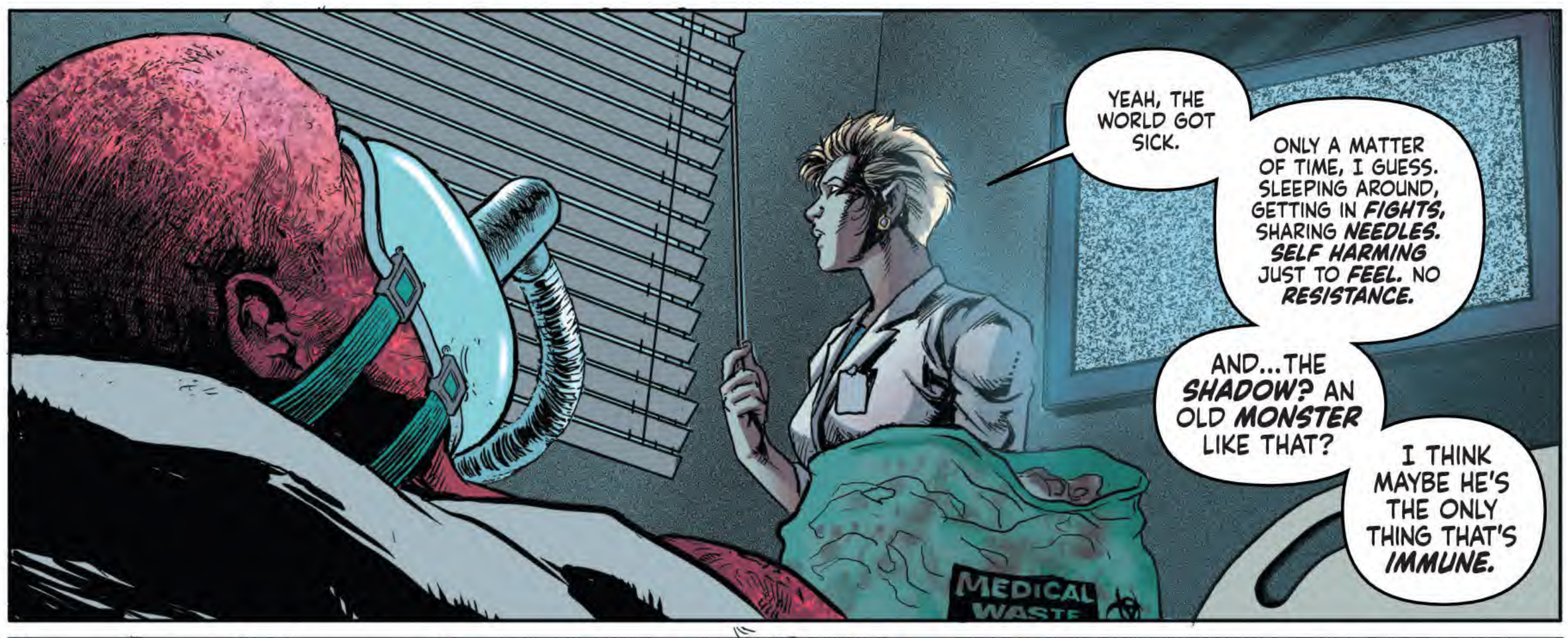

...
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE DONE HERE. YOU KNOW, YOU'RE ACTUALLY HEALING PRETTY WELL, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.
HOW ABOUT I GET THE TV FOR YA, HUH? NOTHING WORSE THAN SILENCE.
UFF.
THEN AGAIN.
100 DAYS INTO PRESIDENCY: POTUS SLAMS MEDIA ´´UNTRUTHS´´
SENIOR OFFICIALS DOWNPLAY CIVIL UNREST
LISTEN, YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK? AND THIS IS FROM A NEARLY-ALMOST-PROBABLY-GONNABE DOCTOR, MIND YOU.
NNNK. NNNNK.
I THINK THE WORLD GOT SICK.
MEDICAL WASTE


IT'S LIKE MY SISTER'S COMICS, Y'KNOW?
FACES OF EVIL
WE GOT SO HUNG-UP ON THESE CRAZY VILLAINS WITH THEIR OVER-THE-TOP SCHEMES...
MEDICAL WASTE

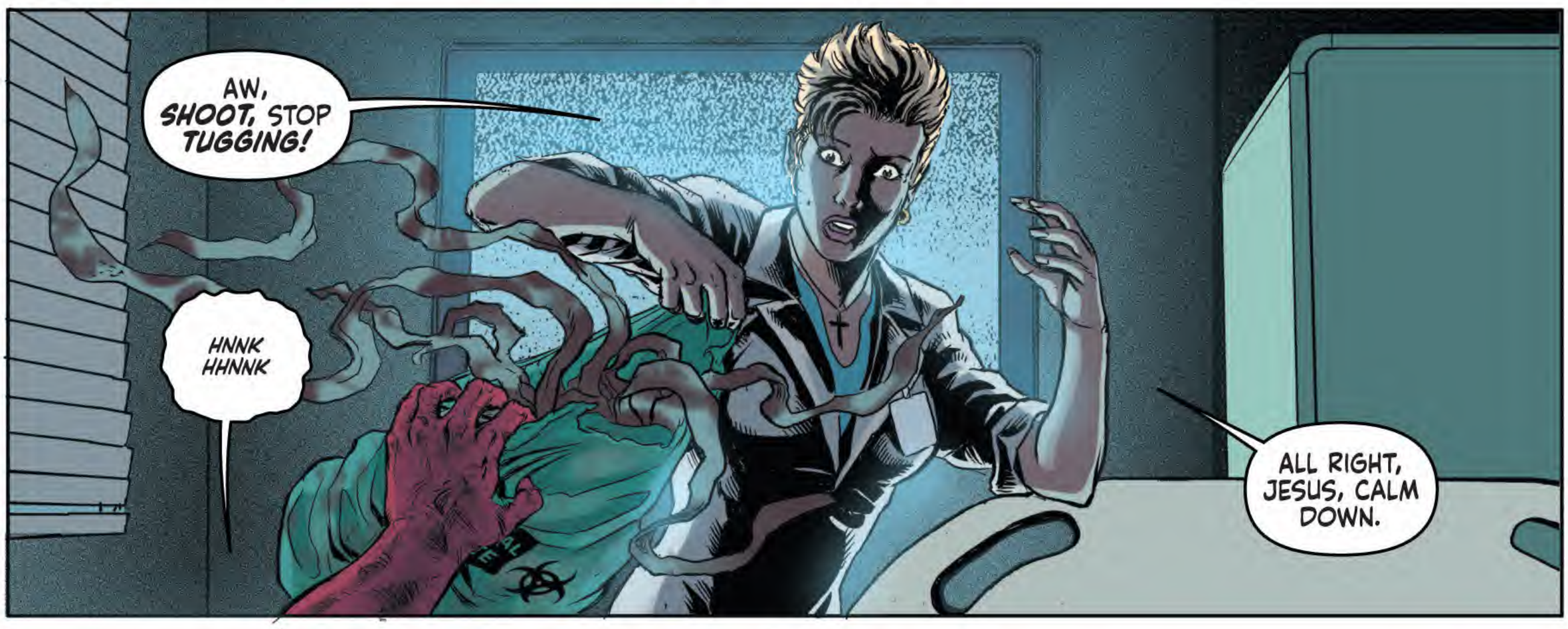

THE AMERICAN SINGER
...SO ABSORBED BY OUR FLASHY ICONS AND THEIR MEANINGLESS STRUGGLES...
MEDICAL WASTE


MEDIA MOGUL APPOINTED WHITEHOUSE COUNSELOR
...THAT WE DIDN'T STOP TO CHECK WHO WAS WRITING THE STORY.
MEDICAL WASTE


SCREW IT.
WHO CAN KEEP UP?
MEDICAL WASTE


YEAH, THE WORLD GOT SICK.
ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, I GUESS. SLEEPING AROUND, GETTING IN FIGHTS, SHARING NEEDLES. SELF HARMING JUST TO FEEL. NO RESISTANCE.
AND...THE SHADOW? AN OLD MONSTER LIKE THAT?
I THINK MAYBE HE'S THE ONLY THING THAT'S IMMUNE.
MEDICAL WASTE

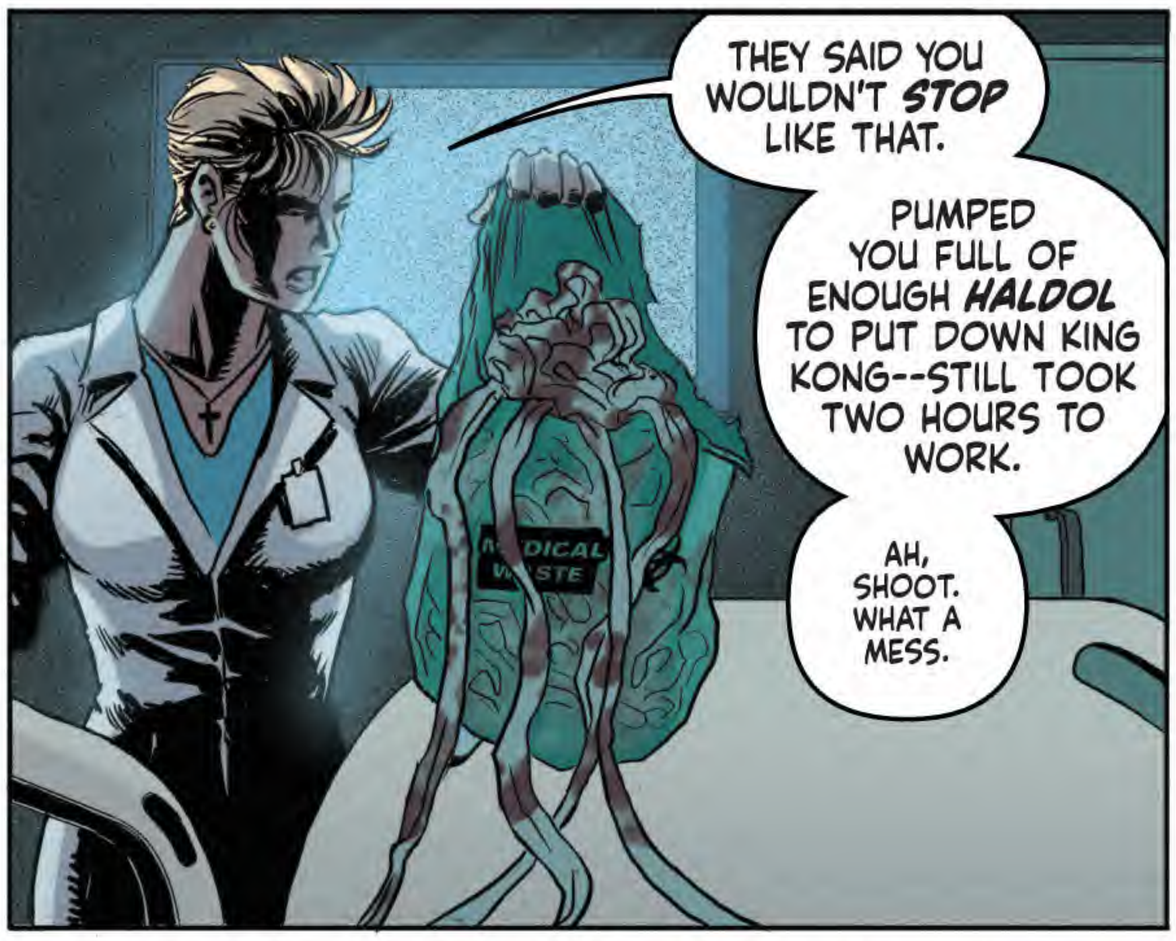
SORRY. I'M RAMBLING. FACT IS, THAT DAY IN SCHOOL WAS THE LAST TIME ANYONE SAW HIM.
SO MAYBE HE STOPPED RESISTING TOO.
HNK HHNNK
MEDICAL WASTE

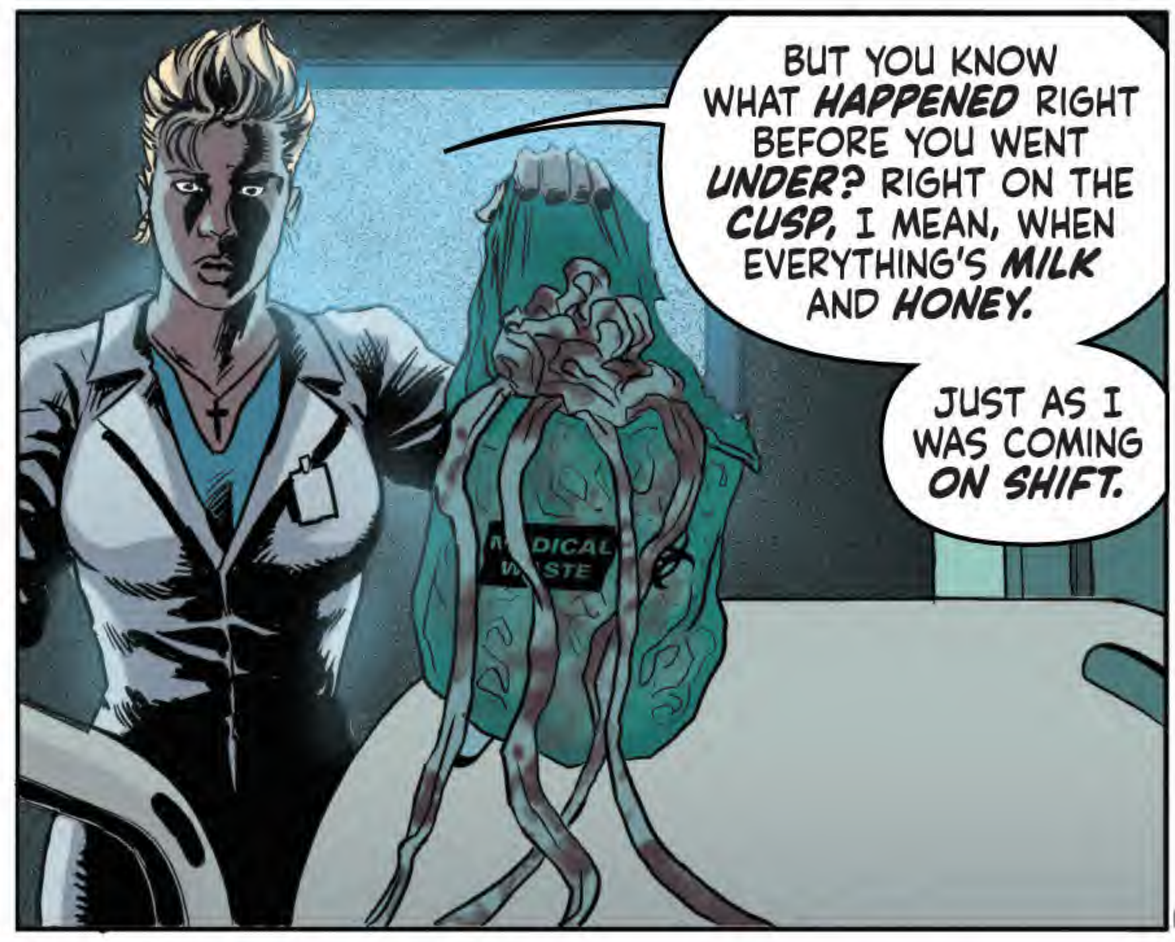

AW, SHOOT, STOP TUGGING!
HNNK HHNNK
ALL RIGHT, JESUS, CALM DOWN.

THERE. I MOVED THE MASK.
NOW WHAT'S SO IMP--
WH... WHY
...ARE Y... YOU TELLING ME THIS?

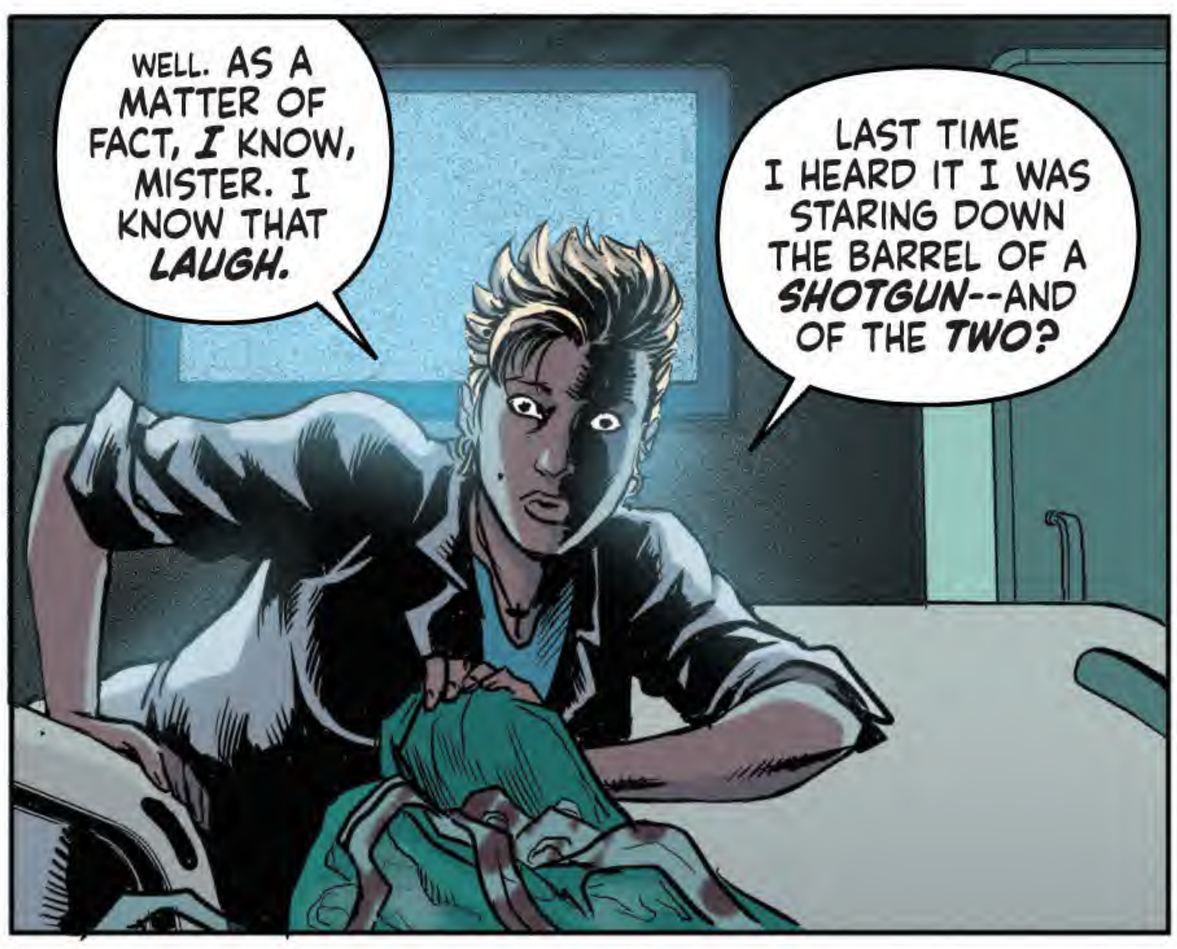
...
SERIOUSLY? YOU'RE STILL PRETENDING, HUH?

"LISTEN, I HEARD ABOUT LAST MONTH, OKAY? THE NIGHT THEY BROUGHT YOU IN.
EMERGENCY
AAAAAA!
"THEY SAID THEY FOUND YOU RIGHT OUT FRONT. STROKE OF GODDAM MIDNIGHT."
NO PRINTS. NO DNA ON RECORD. NO WAY OF FIGURING HOW OLD YOU ARE.
...ALTHOUGH, SPEAKING AS A BED BATH EXPERT HERE, THAT THERE IS AN OLD MAN'S WEINER--BARBECUED OR NOT.
DUTY NURSE WAS A HUNDRED PERCENT YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT. NEVER SEEN SUCH COMPLETE BURNS, SHE SAID.
KEPT EXPECTING THE SHOCK TO KICK IN.
"IT DIDN'T".
AAAAA
WHO KNOWS?
AAAAA
WHO KNOWS?!


THEY SAID YOU WOULDN'T *STOP* LIKE THAT.
PUMPED YOU FULL OF ENOUGH *HALDOL* TO PUT DOWN KING KONG--STILL TOOK TWO HOURS TO WORK.
AH, SHOOT. WHAT A MESS.

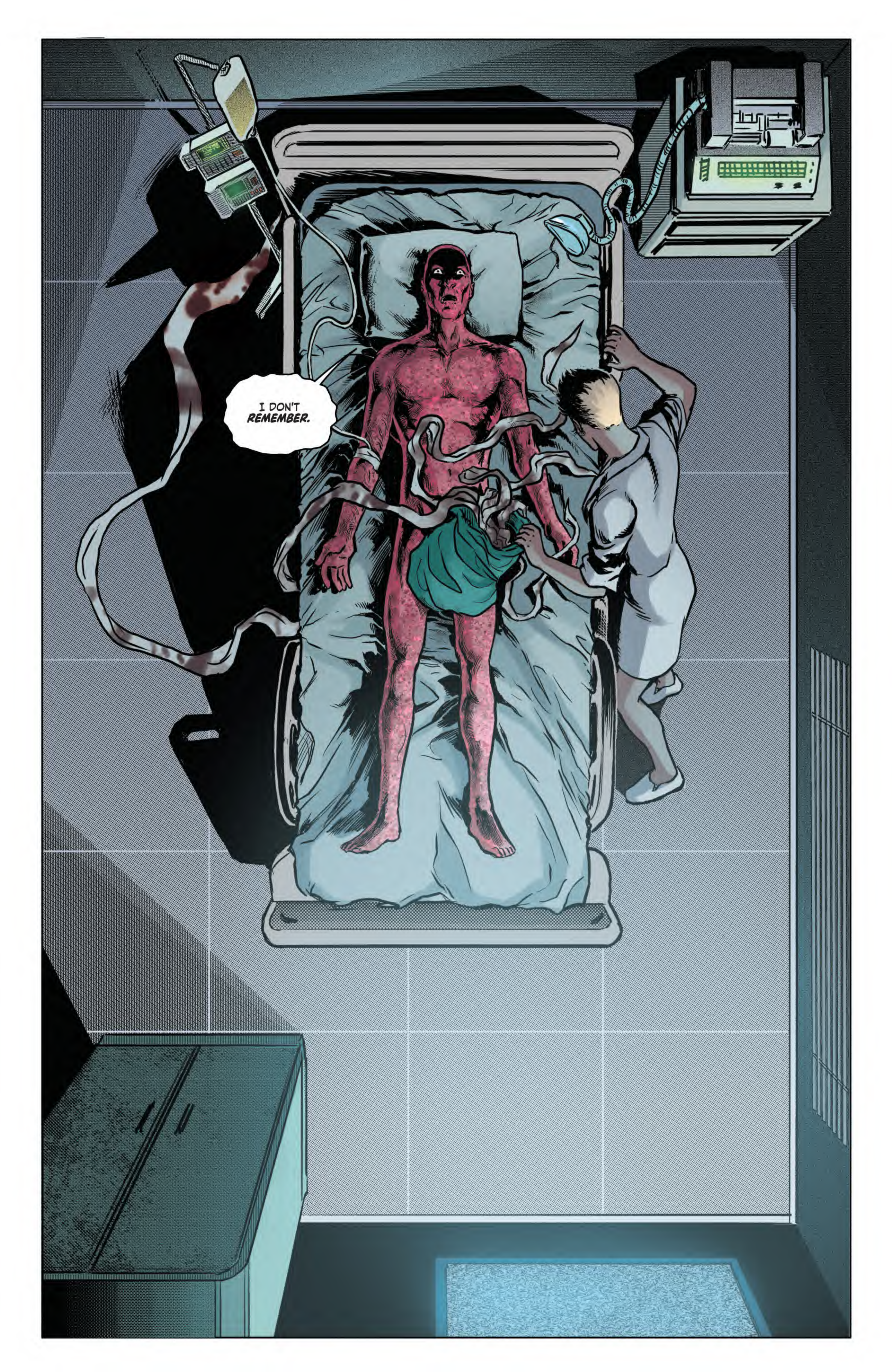

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT *HAPPENED* RIGHT BEFORE YOU WENT *UNDER?* RIGHT ON THE *CUSP,* I MEAN, WHEN EVERYTHING'S *MILK* AND *HONEY.*
JUST AS I WAS COMING *ON SHIFT.*

I KNOW
HA
I KNOW
HAHAH
I KNOW
HAHAHA *HAHAHAHA HAHAHA*


WELL. AS A MATTER OF FACT, *I* KNOW, MISTER. I KNOW THAT *LAUGH.*
LAST TIME I HEARD IT I WAS STARING DOWN THE BARREL OF A *SHOTGUN*--AND OF THE *TWO?*

IT'S THE *LAUGH* THAT GAVE ME *NIGHTMARES.*
SO COME ON. YOUR SECRET'S SAFE WITH *ME.*

YOU'RE *HIM.*
AREN'T YOU?
I...I...


I DON'T REMEMBER.

NEXT ISSUE

The circumstances that led Mary's mysterious burn patient to her hospital are becoming clearer — but is this horribly hurt man really the Shadow? And what is his connection with the millionaire Worthy Delaney, an advisor to the newly elected President Wyatt? Meanwhile, Mary and her sister Luisa begin an investigation of their own into a Shadow fan-site — because if the information there lets people make the connection with her patient, the Shadow is in grave danger!

WRITER STEVE ORLANDO CROSSES OVER THE SHADOW & BATMAN FOR DYNAMITE!

David Finch cover A

Giovanni Timpano interior art

Batman and the Shadow are two of the most iconic characters in the history of what comics – what was your inspiration for the creation of your iteration of these characters, and do you feel you uniquely bring to them?

When we first brought them together, and now, it's all about mortality. It's a trait that defines Batman and the Shadow - in our first adventure, it's symbolized by Bruce's fight to accept there are things he will simply not know, the limits of his mortality. And here, we take the opposite track, as the Shadow must learn the limitations of immortality. In these two characters, you have a cautionary tale. The Shadow is the eternal symbol of how low Bruce could sink if he loses focus and lets himself fall into depression. But the Shadow too perhaps has less illusions about who and what he is.

The Shadow and Batman let us talk about our own humanity when they appear together on the page. They are our good and bad, our aspirational self, and our lowest, darkest self. Their battle to co-exist is our battle to rectify the two sides in each of our hearts. And just like ourselves, only when they find balance can they truly function at their peak.

And when they do, evil better watch out.

Tell us about your process for the creation of this series.

We are producing *Shadow/Batman* in a more open script format, similar to Marvel books in the 1960s, to give Giovanni the most freedom possible in his storytelling and page layout, give him room to create and work the space in his own unique way. It's a more collaborative type of storytelling, but I think the result almost always has more freshness, more energy, and more life.

Any hints or insider information you can let fans in on about the upcoming series?

Batman and the Shadow have long been icons of power, of control, but in Shadow/Batman, their enemies rise up from history to show them the limitations of that perception. They are but two men, who have fought for decades, but their enemies have wrought evil and control for centuries.

Shadow/Batman will pit our heroes against villains they each have never faced before, and introduce a brand new element to the table, and character who combines aspects of the Shadow and Batman, their crimefighter grandson in spirit: Damian Wayne, Robin.

And finally, anything additional you would like to say at all about the series, or to your fans?

Shadow/Batman brings the two heroes who always know into a world they could never imagine. How do you fight a concept if you don't even know it exists? If you were living in a cipher, would you know it, without the keyword?

An evil has been lurking in clear view for hundreds and hundreds of years, so subtle, so deft, that none of us can comprehend it. It's as big as generations.

But it's never faced Batman, the Shadow, and Robin.

This is the history of evil versus the history of crimefighting itself.

The Shadow/Batman #1 is in stores October 4th and features art by Giovanni Timpano, and covers by David Finch, Ethan Van Sciver, Alex Ross, Dustin Nguyen, Brandon Peterson, Bill Sienkiewicz, Howard Porter And Giovanni Timpano.

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